

Hammersmith

CHRONICLE

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THE BIG INTERVIEW:
FULHAM PREP
HEADTEACHER
NEIL BROOKS
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CALL FOR COMPASSION IN CLASSROOM

This image of guitar legends David Gilmour and Jeff Beck is among many iconic pictures captured by top rock music photographer Ross Halfin. He's photographed some of the biggest names in rock over the last 40 years, including the likes of The Who, Led Zeppelin and Free. And now Ross will display a selection of never-before-seen snaps as part of a display at the Novotel Conference Centre in Hammersmith
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'Boot out yobs'

'YOBs' who cause anti-social behaviour on council estates should be evicted from their homes, according to the Hammersmith and Fulham Conservatives' housing spokesman.

Councillor Harry Phibbs said "neighbours from hell" should face tougher punishments for breaking the rules of their tenancy agreement.

The call for action came as official figures revealed that only 10 council tenants were evicted over the last year, despite a total of 277 anti-social behaviour reports.

Cllr Phibbs said the council should now adopt a "zero tolerance" approach rather than relying on evictions as a "last resort".

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Rio on big screen

SPORTS fans in Hammersmith will be able to watch the Olympic Games on the big screen this summer.

Highlights from Rio de Janeiro will be broadcast in Lyric Square between August 5 and August 21.

Business group HammersmithLondon has organised a packed summer festival line-up, which has already seen Andy Murray's Wimbledon victory beamed live from Centre Court.



Hammersmith's new police station

Cop a look...

PLANS for a major refurbishment of the "outdated" Hammersmith police station have been revealed to the public for the first time.

Met chiefs have pledged to provide a 24-hour counter service seven days a week when the new and improved station reopens towards the end of 2018.

Visitors were given a glimpse of the new-look station during a public exhibition held last week.

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Bus route row settled

Council makes it clear: idea of Blythe Road service is 'absolute dead issue'

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A BITTER dispute over rumoured plans for a controversial new bus route has finally been brought to an end after councillors firmly ruled out the idea.

Town hall bosses said the prospect of an extended route passing through Blythe Road was now an "absolute dead issue".

Residents had previously mounted campaigns both for and against the move and launched opposing petitions that attracted hundreds of signatures.

But senior councillors gave firm assurances that they would not be pursuing the proposal following a heated town hall debate last week.

Members of the Conservative opposition group claimed that confusion over the issue had "fractured

social cohesion" between neighbours.

But Labour councillor Hannah Barlow accused the Tories of "making trouble".

She said: "They purposely tried to drag this out to create confusion and build up resentment within the wards. It is clear and unambiguous: there will be no new bus."

A group of elderly residents from the Springvale estate contacted the

council in January to request an extended bus route in order to improve transport links for those with mobility difficulties. It was also suggested that Transport for London's C1 bus could be re-routed to pass through Blythe Road.

However, neighbours were pitted against each other when a counter-petition calling for the plan to be

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MAYOR URGED TO CRACK DOWN ON KNIFE CRIME AFTER STABBINGS - PAGE 4 • PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES SHAKESPEARE'S ANNIVERSARY - PAGE 10

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Now approaching 10 years at the top,
London's Jamie T is poised to release his
fourth full-length album before returning
to the capital for a trio of shows **PAGE 14**

Compassion is key to classroom success, says prep's new leader

BY JACK DIXON

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A MORE compassionate and caring approach to education – rather than a focus on ‘exams, exams, exams’ – is key to helping students develop confidence in the classroom.

That is the message from the new headmaster at Fulham Prep School, Neil Brooks, who is set to take over at the helm in September.

A former soldier who served in Bosnia and Northern Ireland during the 1990s, Mr Brooks has dedicated his post-forces life to educating the next generation.

But while he says it is important to push the most talented onto academic success, his overriding mission is a simple one: to help children lead happier lives.

“One of the things I’m quite concerned about is mental health in children,” he says.

“There tends to be an overemphasis on academic performance. We’re all looking at these benchmarks and bars when, of course, some of them aren’t going to cross those bars. We just want them to be comfortable in their own skin.”

Mr Brooks said some schools, in the pursuit of A* students, had “lost sight” of the need to allow children to develop at their own pace.

“The emphasis tends to be on exams and exams and exams. Of course those exams are important but they are not the be-all and end-all. Children need to accept, as we all have in wider society, that we have got to give time to friendships and give time to family – and give a little time to ourselves as well.”

Pushing children to sit SATs exams in primary schools is also a move that doesn’t sit well with the new head: “With young children who can be very delicate you can’t just turn round and say ‘you’ve failed, you haven’t reached the hurdle’. I don’t think that’s particularly kind or a compassionate approach to education.”

The new headmaster takes over the post in September following the retirement of the school’s founder, Jane Emmett, who set up Fulham Prep some 20 years ago.



Teacher Neil Brooks said some schools, in the pursuit of A* students, had “lost sight” of the need to allow children to develop at their own pace



‘It’s important that the school reflects that wider society and that the children have always been in an environment where they celebrate each other’s strengths and weaknesses,’ says Neil Brooks, new headmaster at Fulham Prep School

Mr Brooks, 48, will move from the Cothill House school in Oxfordshire – a role that saw him named interim principal of the Cothill Educational Trust last year.

The appointment marks the be-

ginning of an exciting new era for the school, which has recently been taken over by InspirED, an international education group with a track record of success in Australia and South Africa.

The deal is likely to bring new

investment into Fulham Prep – and, according to Mr Brooks, opportunities for all.

“One of [the school’s] strengths is that it takes and reflects a really broad cross-section of children. It’s not solely after the academics. It’s not just after the musicians or the sportsmen and women,” he adds.

“We need to get the word out there that this is really important because when these children are young adults they will operate in a world where they will meet people with all sorts of different abilities. It’s important that the school reflects that wider society and that the children have always been in an environment where they celebrate each other’s strengths and weaknesses.”

After leaving the army at the age of 30, Mr Brooks wrote to 112 independent schools in the search for a job. Only three invited him for an interview – but a position at Cothill was enough to kick start an impressive career in education.

Alongside his day-to-day work with the trust, in 2011 Mr Brooks set up a specialist science school in Dorset with support from the Natural History Museum.

Married to his wife Tracey, and with two sons approaching the end of their school lives, Mr Brooks says he is now ready for a new challenge.

“I’m very aware that Jane Emmett and her team have done a fantastic job and that the school is thriving as it is, so any changes I make will be evolutionary not revolutionary,” he says.

“But I’d quite like to increase the opportunities for children to hold positions of responsibility. I think that there are certain leadership jobs which we could put in place for children to give them a flavour of how responsibility and decision-making works.

“It’s all about building that confidence and accepting who they are.”

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Park rioters condemned

THE "school's out" rioters in Hyde Park and at other spaces across London have been denounced by the capital's young black community as "stupid" and "disgraceful" for jumping on the Black Lives Matter bandwagon.

Riots and street fights broke out in Hyde Park, Burgess Park in Camberwell, Stamford Hill in Hackney and in Harlesden last week as large crowds of youths gathered for water fights and street parties as schools broke up for summer holidays.

Six young people and one policeman were stabbed as disturbances erupted across the capital on the hottest nights of the year.

In Park Lane, drivers watched in horror as a young man was chased through traffic by attackers and then stabbed after a water fight in Hyde Park turned ugly and hundreds of youths clashed with riot police before looters ransacked a McDonalds at Marble Arch.

On Tuesday, four people, including a police officer, were stabbed in the Hyde Park incident. In other disturbances on the same night, two 16-year-old boys were stabbed at another water fight in Burgess Park and police officers were pelted with missiles as they tried to break up an illegal street party on the Stamford Hill estate. The night before, in Harlesden, a 15-year-old girl was taken to hospital with suspected knife wounds to the head after hundreds gathered for an illegal street party in St Mary's Road.

There were widespread reports that at the Hyde Park and Stamford Hill incidents the rioters were egged on by young people chanting "Black Lives Matter" – the African-American movement in the USA which protests against the killings of black people by law enforcement officers.

But the linking of the many controversial shootings by US cops with London's end-of-school disturbances has been widely condemned by members of the capital's young black community, who took to social media to decry the street fighting.

"Please don't link the Black Lives Matter movement to a bunch of rowdy teenagers that were high on vitamin D being stupid", posted one.

"The Black Lives Movement has lost no value but each and every person involved at Hyde Park is a disgrace", posted another.

Another typical post on Twitter stated, "If you're chanting 'Black Lives Matter' whilst causing a nuisance or being violent you're just making people resent black lives".

And another protested, "Why must people relate this Hyde Park issue to Black Lives Matter? People seemed to be acting rowdy and police did their job".

The Met, which cancelled all leave in the wake of the Hyde Park riot, have publicly identified eight men they want to trace in connection with the disorder. The Met said its homicide and major crime command was leading the hunt for troublemakers and would use "their resources and expertise to quickly identify, arrest and bring to justice those who committed crime, including grievous bodily harm, robbery, criminal damage and violent disorder".

Police have also appealed to parents and guardians to stop their children going to unlicensed gatherings.

Council rubbishes claims over Crossrail 2 housing

BY GEOFF BAKER

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KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council has hit back at Chelsea's anti-Crossrail campaigners who have accused the authority of supporting the controversial King's Road rail link as a ruse in order to build thousands of luxury homes on social housing sites.

Angry residents fighting the proposal for a £1 billion Crossrail 2 station claim that Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council is backing the plan in order to get rich from building up to 3,500 luxury new homes.

The No Crossrail In Chelsea campaigners claim that the poor of the borough will suffer as social housing sites are knocked down to make way for plush pads costing an average of £1.7 million.

But the council says there is "absolutely no basis" in the campaigners' claims that social housing in the borough would be sacrificed and is seeking to reassure tenants that the 3,500 proposed homes will include affordable new housing.

The sites that the No Crossrail group claims have the greatest potential for being demolished to make room for "fat cat flats" are the Cremorne and Lots Road estates, which are both social housing. Other areas of social housing that the campaigners say are under threat include the Peabody Estate and Chelsea Manor Court in Chelsea Manor Street, Thorndyke Close and Pond Place Estate.

"Are we looking at yet more very expensive homes, and the sacrifice of social housing, to help finance an unwanted station for one of London's richest boroughs?" said a spokesman for the campaign, which is supported by 95 per cent of Chelsea residents.

"Kensington and Chelsea council's long-term planning envisages the potential construction of up to 3,500 luxury new homes 'supported by' the proposed new King's Road Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea.

"A response from the council to a Freedom of Information request from the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign suggests that large numbers of these expensive homes would, and could only, be built on current social housing sites.

"The total potential value of these developments was put at £6 billion by the senior council official who used the 3,500 number at a recent property conference.

"This implies either an average price for each new home of £1.7 million, or some lesser number of even more expensive homes plus

the inevitable disruption to, and diminution of the number of, social housing units.

"How 'delivery' of these homes will be 'supported' by construction of the proposed station is a mystery, but the implication is that a bonanza for developers in Chelsea will contribute to the station's – and the council's – funding needs.

"These ideas seem at odds with Crossrail's basic reasons for existence and with policies outlined by the Mayor of London. They confirm the concerns of local residents that the proposed King's Road Crossrail 2 station is being supported by the Borough Council principally for its development potential, which is so unsuited to Chelsea."

No Crossrail campaigners alerted residents of the "building bonanza" after comments made by Graham Stallwood, the council's ex-

cutive director for planning and development, at a recent local meeting to debate the locally-unpopular rail link.

In a reply to the No Crossrail group's Freedom of Information request, the council confirmed that Mr Stallwood said: "The council is very supportive of Crossrail 2. The scheme could support up to 3,500 new homes in borough over 40 years, worth up to £6 billion in gross development value".

Chris Lenon, Chairman of the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign, commented: "We have long wondered why our local council continues to support plans for a Crossrail 2 station on the King's Road, despite 95 per cent of local residents and over 80 local businesses opposing the costly scheme.

"These plans reveal just what we have feared. Our

council, ignoring the fact there is no real transport case for a new £1 billion station here, wants to press ahead so it can make millions out of community levies linked to expensive, high-end property develop-

ment. "This goes against the very ethos of the Crossrail 2 scheme, with over half the development sites identified currently being social housing. Many members of the public attended the recent council meeting at which the No Crossrail in Chelsea petition was presented. They heard a good deal of lip-service paid by Councilors to the interests of the Borough's residents, but not a single word about housing. Perhaps now we know why."

"This concept is clearly based on bringing money to both the council and property developers. We are calling on TfL and the Mayor of

London to listen to the overwhelming majority of Londoners who opposed this ill-advised plan in last Autumn's public consultation."

But a council spokesman said: "There is absolutely no basis for the No Crossrail campaign's claim that social housing would be sacrificed to help finance a Crossrail 2 station. For there to be a loss of affordable housing, the council and the Mayor would both have to abandon their statutory housing policies. That is obviously not going to happen.

"The reality is that the 3,500 homes will include significant new affordable housing, but this is over a more than 50-year time frame, during which time most people would accept that some redevelopment would be inevitable.

"There are many com-

pelting reasons that the council supports a Crossrail 2 station on the King's Road. The area, which is home to major hospitals and an important commercial area, is poorly served by public transport. London's population is set to rise which will place more strain on existing local services such as the District line. We also believe a new station will help reduce traffic congestion locally and improve air quality.

"An increased population will also require more homes but this will not be at the expense of social housing. In common with many other London councils, we are seeking to provide more housing, including affordable housing, on lower-density sites and our housing estates right across the borough, not just in the area which would benefit enormously from a Crossrail 2 station."

"The commitment is supported by a pledge that any council tenants, whose homes would need to be redeveloped, will receive better quality new homes, on the same terms and rent levels, in or very near to the redevelopment. The pledge will ensure that existing mixed communities are preserved and that existing residents are able to stay in the areas they know and love."

"The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has agreed the principles it should aspire to when it comes to compensating and rehousing tenants and leaseholders affected by regeneration schemes on Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation managed estates. The principles were developed as part of ongoing planning for the redevelopment of the council offices at Pembroke Road and the council will now seek to apply them to any future schemes.

"Essentially, Kensington and Chelsea will only redevelop a council estate if it is possible to rehouse all existing tenants in better homes in the new development or in the nearby area – unless, of course, they choose to move elsewhere. This commitment is in addition to all the usual statutory compensation and disturbance allowances. In addition the council will try to offer all resident leaseholders on such an estate access to a shared equity scheme of the kind being piloted at Pembroke Road, to enable them to buy a home in a new development, even if it is worth more than their original home. This offer will depend on the viability of each regeneration project, but would also be in addition to all statutory compensation and disturbance allowances."

Mall flat for sale despite security fears

DESPITE peers' fears that it could be used by an assassin with plans to shoot the Queen, a new flat overlooking The Mall at Admiralty Arch has gone on the market.

Members of the House of Lords have voiced grave concerns that the former Government building could be occupied by a terrorist sniper and Her Majesty would be put at risk when travelling in state processions from Buckingham Palace.

But any such terrorist would need to be rather well off – as the luxury apartment is up for sale for up to a record £150 million.

The 15,000 sq ft home in the historic Grade I listed landmark boasts 12 bedrooms and 12 bathrooms and enjoys some of the best views in London and much of its history, Winston Churchill once lived there and the building was where Ian Fleming worked whilst creating James Bond.

The building was bought from the Government in 2012 by Spanish developer Rafael Serrano, who acquired a 250-year lease for a reported £60 million in 2012. The new development is available to buyers as one huge apartment, or split it into up to four flats ranging from 1,700 sq ft to 7,100 sq ft.

Prime London property agents expect the price tag to range from £8,000-£9,000 per sq ft. That would mean a buyer snapping up the whole residential site paying as much as £150 million, once stamp duty of over £16 million and fees were paid. For that, buyers would receive a 250-year lease.

Mr Serrano plans to turn most of the site into a 100-bedroom luxury hotel, and 12 international hotel groups are currently interested in running it.

But last year peers spoke out against the Government sale of Admiralty Arch and the old War Office to developers for almost £200 million.

The sale of the two buildings could compromise national security and put The Queen at risk, former Home Secretary Lord Reid claimed.

"If the cost of reducing the deficit by a couple of hundred million pounds is to put our national security, not to mention the monarch, at risk, it is not a price worth paying," he said.

Labour peer Lord Foulkes of Cumnock said it was "privatisation gone mad".

He told Conservative peer Lord Bridges of Headley: "Does the noble Lord really think that selling off the Old War Office building, just up the road from the Cenotaph, to a private foreign company for use as a hotel and private apartments will not cause major security risks? Of course it will."

The apartment will have six metre-high ceilings, intricate crests and original fireplaces, antique fittings from 1910, and come with "free" access to private off-road valet parking, a private entrance and lift, a 24-hour concierge service and security and lifetime membership to a private members' club.



Lady Curzon leads protesters in a march down the King's Road for the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign late last year. Picture: SWNS

Mayor wants to take over failing train operator

THE Mayor of London is calling for Transport for London to take immediate control of Southern Rail in an urgent bid to halt the city-shaming disruption that has led to chaotic disorders for thousands of commuters.

Mayor Sadiq Khan said that he wants urgently to put a top Transport for London team in charge of the failing Govia Thameslink Railway Southern franchise.

The TfL team would run Southern Rail until the Government is able to resolve the chaos.

Govia Thameslink Railway recently brought in an emergency timetable, with 350 services cancelled a day, leaving commuters crammed onto packed trains or stranded on replacement buses. The decision followed months of delays and cancellations to services.

Mayor Khan believes that TfL are best placed to sort out the problems that he has described as "an embarrassment to our city" and he has called on the Department for Transport to take temporary control of the

railway. In a letter to the new Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling MP, the Mayor has gone one stage further, calling for TfL to be put in charge until the issues are resolved.

In his letter to Chris Grayling, Mr Khan said: "Thousands of Londoners and longer-distance commuters simply cannot get to and from work, and are understandably furious."

"There is no doubt that the franchise must now be in default, and I have previously called for your De-

partment to step in and take control.

"Notwithstanding the wider discussions on devolution, I now offer to go one step further and put my senior TfL team in charge of the GTR Southern franchise until we get a permanent resolution.

Mr Khan has also urged the Department for Transport to work with his team on putting in place a speedier timetable for the transfer of suburban rail services to Transport for London in order to improve efficiency.

Forget luvvies' trade endorsement, housing crisis is crippling business

BY GEOFF BAKER

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AN expensive and star-studded advertising campaign launched by the Mayor of London to sell the capital to businessmen abroad post-Brexit has hit a glitch.

Although the snazzy campaign claims "London is open for business", one quarter of small firms in the city are saying "but it's not for us" - and they are shutting up shop and moving out.

Mayor Sadiq Khan has recruited a club of celebrities to help push his new #LondonIsOpen campaign, including: Jude Law, Jarvis Cocker, Olly Murs, Corrine Bailey Rae, Chris Moyles, Konnie Huq, Niall Horan, Baaba Maal, Ella Eyre, Lianne La Havas, and The Mystery Jets.

But the luvvie London campaign will fail to cheer up to 200,000 small businesses who have either quit or are thinking of quitting the capital because of the sky-high price of living here.

A new survey by the Federation of Small Businesses has revealed that, whatever the Mayor's celebrity pals may claim, the housing crisis is crippling business.

"According to the survey, a quarter of small businesses have either moved, or have considered moving, their business out of London as a result of the rising cost of house prices," said a spokesman for the FSB. "Our survey also shows nearly six in 10, fifty seven per cent, of small business employers believe the wellbeing and engagement of employees is the single biggest worry for their business due to London's housing costs.

"Nearly half of small businesses have taken, or considered taking, at least one action to help their employees with the cost of housing, including measures such as offering loans for rental deposits and mortgage payments, providing accommodation, guaranteeing mortgages for employees and offering employees help to find accommodation."

In 2012, before the housing crisis, there were some 805,000 small and medium-sized businesses in London, providing 49 per cent of all jobs, employing 2.3 million staff and with a turnover of £430 billion.

But house prices have now depleted the sector and the FSB is now warning that small businesses fear that the already-dire situation will get worse in the city where the cost of an average home is more than £600,000.



Mayor Sadiq Khan says London is open for business but many firms say the capital's housing crisis is a block on growth and enterprise

the controversial cost of housing is very bad for business and she called on the Mayor to sort it out.

"This is not an issue that is going away. This is a crisis that affects every aspect of London life, London business life and particularly employees struggling to retain a foothold in the capital," she said.

"Around 80 per cent of our members say that London housing costs and lack of housing supply will impact on their ability to recruit and retain staff in the future - it is vital that London's leaders come together to resolve these issues.

"Many of our members are offering greater levels of flexible working and financial and social support to their highly valued employees, however, we must ensure that we do all that we can to make sure that private and public sector staff have an affordable place to live.

"London is suffering as a result of the housing crisis and it touches everyone living and working in the city. Alongside affordability and availability of commercial space, it is the most important small business issue facing London and the Mayor.

"We now have in place a lot of overlapping Deputy Mayors with great expertise, but they need to move decisively to ensure the correct make up of future developments to suit the needs of all Londoners."

The FSB is arguing for:

The new Deputy Mayors for Housing (James Murray), Planning (Jules Pipe), Transport (Val Shawcross) and Business (Rajesh Agrawal) to "act promptly" to ensure that housing and commercial space, particularly on public land, are appropriately apportioned to meet the needs of business and employees.

The establishment, "as a matter of urgency", of an agreed Londonwide definition of affordable housing based on earnings not market property values - and to ensure that two-thirds of all house building in the capital is designated as affordable housing based on earnings.

However, the FSB says it is "highly supportive" of the Mayor's new celebrity-led #LondonIsOpen campaign to boost business and trade.

"Hashtag LondonIsOpen will show the world that London remains entrepreneurial, international, and full of creativity and possibility, while reassuring the more than one million foreign nationals who live in London that they will always be welcome, and that any form of discrimination will not be tolerated,"

said a spokesman for the Mayor.

"The Mayor is urging all Londoners, organisations and businesses to show their support for the #LondonIsOpen message via social media, through other creative ways. The starting idea for the campaign is built around London opening its doors to welcome people in, and will encourage people to use this as a platform for their own contributions."

#LondonIsOpen kicked off with a film first broadcast at Stevie Wonder's London Hyde Park concert to a 65,000-strong crowd.

A line-up of celebrities feature in the Mayor's three promo films, including Jude Law, Jarvis Cocker, Corrine Bailey Rae and Olly Murs, Konnie Huq and Chris Moyles, along with Niall Horan, Baaba Maal, Ella Eyre, Lianne La Havas, and The Mystery Jets.

Although small firms are suffering, big businessmen are backing #LondonIsOpen and they include Richard Branson, City of London Policy Chairman Mark Boleat, Chief Executive of London Stock Exchange Xavier Rolet, along with companies Google, Hilton, Merlin Entertainments, Freuds, Pavegen, Central Working, Swiftkey, Seedrs and Unruly.

Others endorsing the campaign include Nigel Carrington, Vice-Chancellor, University of the Arts, Professor Julia Black, Interim Director designate and Pro Director for Research, London School of Economics, Professor Edward Byrne AC, President & Principal, King's College London and Professor Pat Bailey, Deputy Vice Chancellor, London South Bank University.

#LondonIsOpen will be promoted at major events and leading visitor attractions across the capital this summer.

Mr Khan said: "London is the best city in the world. It is creative, international, entrepreneurial and full of opportunities. I'm incredibly proud to be Mayor of a city that's so comfortable with its diversity and so optimistic about its future. We don't simply tolerate each others' differences, we celebrate them.

Many people from all over the globe live and work here, contributing to every aspect of life in our city. We now need to make sure that people across London, and the globe, hear that #LondonIsOpen. I urge everyone to get involved with this simple but powerful campaign to send a positive message to the world."

£100,000 for first deposit

THE average first time buyer in London puts down a deposit of nearly £100,000, according to eye-watering stats revealed this week.

Figures from Halifax show a typical first time buyer in the capital moves into a property costing £384,617.

This is almost double the £199,414 average across the UK and three times as much as the North. And to make their first step onto the property ladder in the capital, the average buyer, who is 32, will have a £95,696 deposit to cover 25 per cent of the purchase price.

Their deposit is significantly higher in terms of overall amount and percentage of the property purchase than anywhere else in the UK, according to Halifax.

It is also almost £15,000 more than the typical Londoner put down on 2015 as the average house price for FTBs has increased by £40,000 in just 12 months.

The average FTB deposit in the UK is currently £33,960 - more than double that in 2007 (£16,400). This represents a 14 per cent rise in the deposit over the past year.

As a result of the staggering house prices in London, it is no surprise all ten of the UK's least affordable Local Authority Districts (LADs) for FTBs are in the capital.

The least affordable is Brent where the average FTB property price of £457,014 is 12.5 times gross average annual earnings in the area.

East Dunbartonshire in Scotland is the most affordable LAD in the UK with an average property price of £97,089 - 2.6 times local annual average gross earnings.

Copeland in the North West is the next most affordable (2.9), with five of the ten most affordable LADs for FTBs in Scotland.

The Halifax First Time Buyer Review, which is published today (Sat), reports the number of FTBs in the UK is up by ten per cent for the first six months of 2016 - with 154,200 people jumping on the property ladder.

Chris Gowland, mortgages director at Halifax, said: "There was a further increase in the number of first time buyers in the first half of the year with the total exceeding 100,000 in the first six months of each year since 2012. This rise has been broadly in line with a general improvement in market activity and is likely to have been helped by government measures including the Help to Buy scheme.

"Although numbers remain below their previous peaks and many potential first time buyers are facing escalating house prices and deposit sizes, record low mortgage rates continue to make buying seem a more attractive option than renting."

Tree degrees

A LONDON weather expert has warned people not to sit under shady trees in the heatwave, because hot weather causes branches to fall off.

With temperatures set to rise to 35C, a large tree could be seen as a welcome shelter.

But expert Ian Currie says "summer drop", which occurs when dehydrated trees suddenly fall down or lose their branches, is more prevalent than many think.

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Leading figures in the health sector were honoured by the University of West London's College of Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare last week.

The annual graduation ceremony took place at Wembley Stadium and the honorary degree recipients were joined by more than 1,700 graduates.

Receiving honorary degrees were Trish Knight, pictured left, a former NHS director of workforce, education and quality, and Professor Jeremy Levy, right, consultant nephrologist and former director of education and quality at Health Education North West London



An app to teach Londoners how to speak Cockney? Lor, luv a duck!

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DOZENS of languages from all over the world are spoken in London – but now linguistic experts are trying to add one more into the melting pot.

A free mobile phone app has been launched encouraging Londoners to master the art of cockney – would you Adam and Eve it?

The East End dialect is much loved in the capital but non-speakers now have the chance to brush up on their accents.

The app, which has been developed by language learning specialists uTalk, is the latest to be added to the company's platform.

It contains a step-by-step guide on how to translate cockney terminology into everyday English.

Nat Dinham, language expert at uTalk, said: "We've had a lot of fun finding ways to make genuine cockney slang work with our language games and had more applicants to be the voice of cockney than any previous language."

Ms Dinham said there were lots of traditional cockney words for parts of the body and money but that more modern language was not always represented.

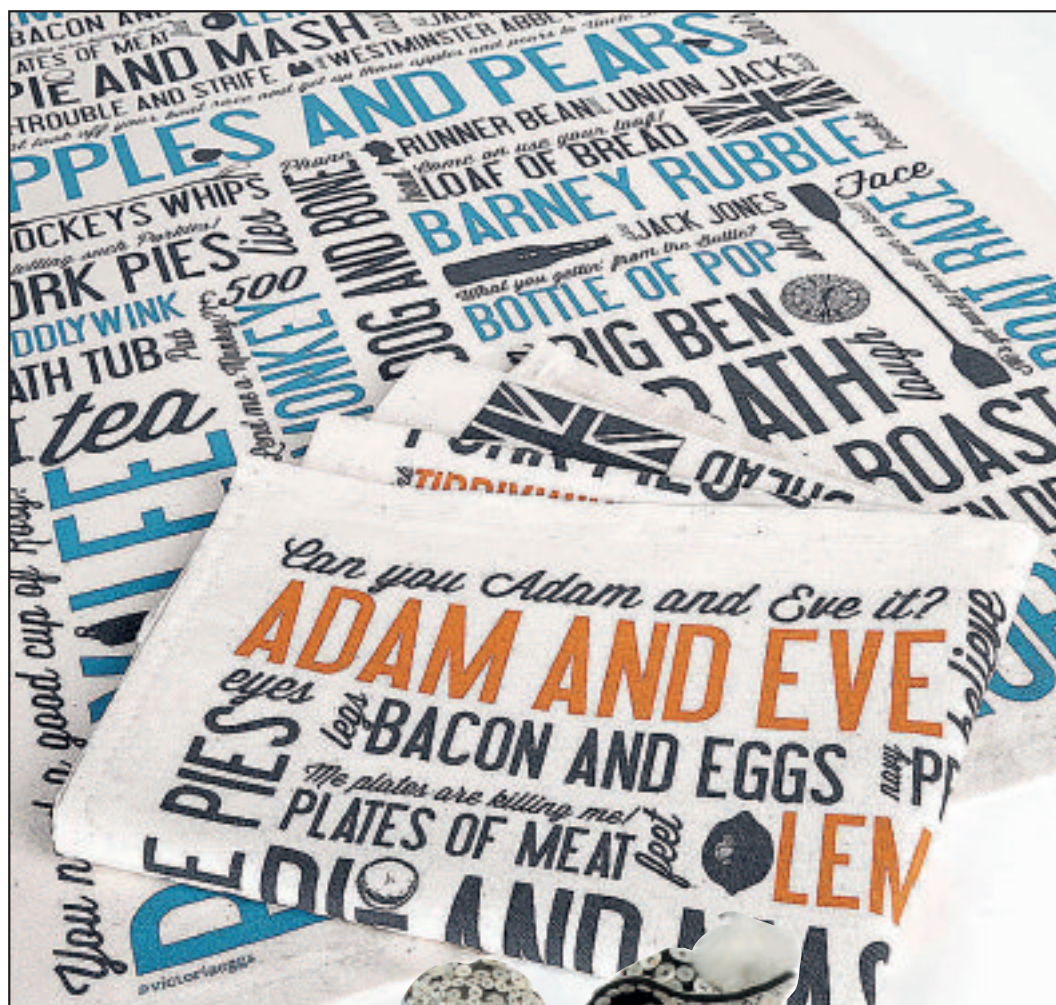
She also said the app design team had tried to avoid 'mockney' – the use of famous people's names – because of its geographical heritage in Essex, rather than London.

"We've brought in some fun, modern phrases like 'plastic fantastic' for credit card and hope it will make people smile, celebrate and most importantly debate the language feeding back on words in use," she added.

"Our app is all about learning language as it's actually spoken by people on the street – so we've tried to recreate cockney grammar and syntax as well as slang."

The launch of the cockney app coincided with the Roman Road summer festival last weekend, where the app designers offered lessons in the local dialect.

Fittingly, the app was launched at G Kelly's pie and mash shop in Bow on Thursday,



A cockney rhyming slang tea towel by Victoria Eggs from notonthehighstreet.com

CLASSIC COCKNEY PHRASES

- Dog an' bone – phone
- Rosy Lee – tea
- 'a'penny dip – ship
- Odin an' Thor – door
- North an' South – mouth
- Tit for Tat – hat
- Bethnal Greens – jeans
- Sinbad the Sailor – tailor
- Rockin'orse – sauce
- Lollipop – shop
- Toby jug – mug
- Stingin' nettle – kettle
- Fisherman's daughter – water
- Linen draper – paper
- Toast an' crumpet – trumpet



July 21, where visitors were treated to cockney language demonstrations and musical sing-alongs with local pearly kings and queens.

Dick Howeson, chairman of EuroTalk – the company behind the app – said: "We want people to have fun trying to speak new languages – and cockney is a lot of fun. I'd like as many Londoners as possible to have a go at it and let us know how they get on and add to the words we know about."

House prices rise over 10%

HOUSE prices in London have risen by more than 10 per cent in the last year, according to the latest official figures.

The average price of a property in the capital shot up by 23 per cent in May, compared to the same month in 2015. The rise of 10.1 per cent was more than the 8.9 per cent increase across England as a whole.

Campbell Robb, chief executive of housing charity Shelter, said: "Sky high rents are leaving millions of people stuck in a rent trap with no hope of saving for a home of their own. And as these figures show, even if they could scrape some money together, house prices are completely out of step with average wages in most of the country."

Vroom rooms: 'hotel' for cars

LONDONERS preparing to jet off for their summer break can now give their cars some time off too.

A 'car park hotel' has been opened at Heathrow airport enabling passengers to check in their vehicles for VIP treatment.

Bespoke suites have been created to accommodate customers' beloved motors as owners leave them behind for some fun in the sun.

Passengers can also pay extra for a 'room service' spruce-up, with a concierge team on hand to buff headlights and refill window washer liquid.

The most affectionate motorists can even book their cars in for a 'manicure', which involves a thorough clean of the wheels, and an 'evening tuck in' service where the car is covered in an overnight sheet.

Cereal killer

DESPERATE London parents are seeking school breakfast clubs in a bid to get their children off social media in the mornings, new research reveals.

Around a quarter of children are glued to Snapchat and Instagram at the crack of dawn, rather than tucking into their Weetabix, according to a survey.

A report by breakfast cereal company Kellogg's revealed that tech gadgets and social media were the main obstacles preventing children from eating breakfast before heading off to school.

One in five parents polled said the main benefit of early morning breakfast clubs was weaning kids off their phones.

The survey also found that fathers were more likely than mothers to hand their kids gadgets in the morning because they wanted a "quiet life".

Pokemon run

A GYM has launched Britain's first Pokemon Go-catching service – by making participants go on a lengthy run.

Walbrook Virgin Active, in the City of London, is organising a 5km run, featuring multiple PokéStops and Pokémon capture opportunities along its route. The run, set to take place on Wednesday, will take in both city and river locations, allowing runners to catch a variety of Pokémon, throughout the capital.

The NHS will not exist if we

JAMES Crane and Fionna Martin have dedicated their entire lives to the National Health Service, *writes Jack Dixon.*

The husband and wife team have worked as junior doctors in London for the past 10 years and currently juggle night and weekend shifts at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital while raising their two young children.

Proud and passionate champions of the traditions of the NHS, they even named their son Nye after its founding father Aneurin Bevan.

But James and Fionna now see a clouded future for the institution they love so dearly. They are increasingly fearful that the NHS “as we know it” might one day cease to exist – and perhaps sooner than anyone could have imagined.

"Staffing levels are skeletal, they are bare bones," says James, 35. "The workforce is already working at maximum capacity. It doesn't need to be very many people who walk away. If you have five or 10 staff who decide to look elsewhere then the whole system collapses."

The couple, who live in Streatham, have been on the front line of the bitter and protracted dispute over new junior doctors' contracts, which are finally due to be imposed in October.

Following a series of high-profile walkouts over weekend



care. The NHS as we know it, free at the point of access, will not exist if we don't do something about it."

The principle contentions for James and Fionna have remained the same throughout the dispute: the new contracts will diminish patient safety and discourage women from entering the workforce.

"We are very keen that workers are not obstructed from coming into the profession. But the final deal still puts mothers at quite a large career earnings disadvantage," Fiona adds.

"If you look at our medicine schools they are 60 per cent female. And those women are not going to carry on going into medicine if they know that year on year they are entering a profession where they are earning less than their male colleagues. I certainly wouldn't - and I wouldn't encourage my daughter to either."

Despite the seemingly inevitable imposition of the contracts, James and Fionna say they are committed to carrying on the fight.

With a new government -
and a new prime minister -



Junior doctors on strike outside St Thomas Hospital in April.
Above: James Crane and Fionna Martin are staunch advocates of the NHS and fear it is facing disaster

working, rates of pay and the overall impact of the changes on patient safety, doctors voted earlier this month to reject the Government's 'final offer'.

James and Fionna say they had no choice. In their eyes, to accept the deal would have opened the floodgates for a wave of contract reforms affecting hundreds of thousands of their colleagues.

"The feeling amongst junior doctors is that our contract negotiations are operating as a kind of Trojan Horse to insert these principles into NHS contracts," adds James.

"Once Saturday is considered to be the same as any other working day through our contract, it will inevitably get rolled out for the hundreds of thousands of other workers who are very likely to get a much worse deal than we eventually were offered. Junior doctors feel they have been thrust into the front line of an approach by the Government to weaken the terms and conditions of public sector contracts. We are not willing to say yes to a deal that we think is going to be used to weaken the terms and conditions of our colleagues."

James and Fionna campaigned with colleagues outside Guy's Hospital during a two-day strike in April that brought the dispute to a head.

Having voted to reject a deal that might finally have brought the stand-off to an end, the couple are now facing uncertain futures.

The strain of unionising has had a big impact on Fionna, 37, who has been forced to sideline an impor-

tant research project in order to make time for writing letters and organising her colleagues.

“Every bit of my personal time that I’ve needed to put into that project has been redirected into writing banners, writing emails, writing letters, trying to organise junior doctors, reading 100-page contracts, trying to understand what they mean and what the impact will be. That weight has been colossal and I haven’t been able to do the things I’ve wanted to do,” she says.

“Doctors already spend a lot of their free time working on improvement projects, things we need to do to deliver good healthcare. And for me and many of my colleagues that time has now been redirected into unionising, which is not something I thought I would be doing as a junior doctor.”

Asked whether the current situation would dissuade her from encouraging her five-year-old daughter Frankie from pursuing a career in the NHS, she added: "I can't see that my daughter will have an opportunity to work in the NHS if we don't stop the current marketisation of health-

now in place, they believe there is a “glimmer of hope” that a more compromising approach could still be on the cards.

For them, the dispute has never been about pay but securing the principles of fairness and equality that underpin the health service.

"The day-to-day job hasn't changed. That's why we came into the profession. When we arrive at work we still love what we do. Neither of us have ever considered leaving the profession but we're not in the same position as every single doctor," says James.

"Junior doctors are going to fight this every step of the way to make sure we can protect the safety of our professional workforce and our patients in future - and the public have also got a big part to play.

"If we can build a groundswell of opposition to what we've seen happening then [the Government] will be forced to row back on the contracts."

"There is an opportunity now to prevent irreparable damage being caused to the NHS. We need to take it and we can't afford to wait."

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Care worker fleeced frail 93 year-old

A CALLOUS care assistant who fleeced thousands of pounds from a frail 93-year-old woman was spared jail.

Angela McIntyre, 55, asked her elderly victim to write blank cheques so she could do shopping for her, but instead pocketed the cash over a five-month period.

McIntyre, of Elephant and Castle, cashed 23 cheques amounting to £4,800 after promising to buy the woman personal items, but only ever gave her items from the care home in Chelsea.

The woman's bank raised the alarm after noticing suspicious activity in her account.

The care home confirmed that the items were provided to the victim free of charge.

PC Colin McMeekin, said: "McIntyre abused her position of trust and care to defraud a vulnerable woman."

"She continued with her scam over many months and was stopped after we were alerted by the bank. The victim was extremely shocked following this discovery."

"This case shows that anyone who is afforded a 'position of trust' over vulnerable adults and breaches that trust in a criminal manner will be vigorously pursued and brought to justice by the relevant authorities."

McIntyre was found guilty of obtaining money by fraud and banned for life from working in the care industry.

She was also given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay a compensation order of £50 a month for two years when she appeared at Isleworth Crown Court.

Asthma 'can be cured'

LONDONERS whose health is plagued by the capital's filthy air have new hope this week following the discovery that asthma could be stopped by switching off the gene which causes it.

Dr Samantha Walker, Asthma UK's Director of Research and Policy, said: "This is a really promising avenue of research that we have already agreed to help fund to its next stage, which is to understand exactly how this gene causes the changes seen in the lungs that lead to asthma."

"This will hopefully bring us even closer to stopping asthma attacks and finding a cure for the one in 11 people with asthma in the UK."

"Each day three people die of asthma attacks. Research like this is a step in the right direction although much more investment is needed."

"There are hundreds of thousands of people in the UK for whom current treatments don't work and they struggle to breathe every day. Research like this will give us better avenues to explore why this is the case and to develop treatments that work."



Pupils, parents and staff enjoyed a tudor-style banquet with cultural twist at Wendell Park primary earlier this month. The event at the Shepherd's Bush school on Wednesday, July 13, celebrated Eid, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and The Big Lunch, a nationwide annual event which brings communities together to share a meal. Approximately 450 children and 150 parents took part in the impressive event at the school in Cobbold Road, with many dressed in tudor costumes – including two musicians who played traditional tunes from the era

Employers 'too frightened' to take on disabled workers

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON employers are frightened to hire disabled workers in case they "say the wrong thing", new research suggests.

More than 40 per cent of business leaders polled said they were apprehensive about employing someone with a disability for fear of making inappropriate comments.

The findings were revealed as part of a survey of 1,000 businesses to coincide with the launch of Purple – a new not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving employment opportunities for disabled people.

It suggests that despite working in the diversity capital of the world, London's employers are still failing to offer equal opportunities.

Mike Adams, chief executive of Purple, said: "We've always known that being disabled means you're more likely to be unemployed and this has a real impact on both career opportunities and quality of life."

"What this latest research tells us is that in fact it isn't disability that's the barrier to finding employment but the worries and misconceptions of business owners



Purple chief executive Mike Adams (front) with fellow representatives at the London Stock Exchange where the organisation was launched earlier this month

themselves. This isn't just a barrier for disabled people but for many businesses missing out on valuable employee skills and talent, as well as powerful consumer opportunities."

According to Purple, disabled people already fall significantly behind the rest of the population when it comes to wellbeing standards. Less than half of the UK's 11.5 mil-

lion disabled people are currently in work, compared to 82 per cent of the able-bodied.

Purple says thousands of disabled Londoners are being squeezed out of the job market at the first hurdle, regardless of professional ability.

The organisation's survey revealed that one in five business owners and hiring

managers were worried about interviewing someone with a disability in case they "do or say the wrong thing".

A third said they were concerned about using the incorrect terminology and almost 40 per cent were uncomfortable because they did not know whether they should help with office tasks, such as opening doors.

Autistic actor Jules Robertson has signed up to support Purple's campaign to "change the conversation" around disability. He was recently cast to play a character with Aspergers syndrome in the BBC medical drama *Holby City*.

He said: "Life can be hard for autistic people – we want to work, we need to work, but it's really difficult to get a job despite the fact that our brains are unique."

Appealing directly to business leaders, he added: "[Autistic people] could add value to your business and a job would help them value themselves. I encourage you to think outside the box and hire people who think differently."

Purple has set a target of securing 20,000 jobs for disabled people over the next decade, while matching 25,000 personal assistants to disabled employers.

Capital birds have the hump

LONDON'S bird population is tetchy and irritable – say university boffins.

It appears that urban birds are far angrier than their rural cousins, according to a new study.

Researchers found that birds that live in suburban areas have significantly higher levels of territorial aggression than their country counterparts.

It is thought that birds based in metropolitan areas have less space, but better resources to defend their territory and are therefore more hostile.

The observation, recently published in *Biology Letters*, sheds light on the impact of human population expansion on wildlife. Scientists at Virginia Tech and Radford University in the US measured territorial aggression of male song sparrows in 35 urban areas as well as 38 rural areas during the spring of last year.

Doctor Scott Davies said: "A possible reason for this is that these birds have less space but better resources to defend."

"Living near humans provides better food and shelter, but it also means more competition for these limited resources."

During the study, researchers played recordings of a male song sparrow and observed how the territory-holding birds responded to the simulated intrusion and found that suburban birds were more territorial.

Neurophysiologist Dr Kiki Sandford said: "This finding supports past research showing that urban birds are more aggressive in defending their territories."

"We need to understand widespread behavioural differences between various species of urban and rural bird populations to get an idea of how urbanization will affect their survival and diversity in the future. Testosterone and population density are the usual predictors for aggression, but there are other influential factors like increased food availability in urban environments that need to be examined."

"Suburban sprawl is a primary form of human habitat change and though many species can survive in our backyards, their behaviour and physiology may change to cope with shifts in resources and with new disturbances."

Force fly tippers to pay a fine

FLY tippers should be slapped with bumper fines for dumping their rubbish in London, according to environmental leaders.

The chair of the transport and environment committee at London Councils, the body representing all 32 of the capital's local authorities, said dumpers should be forced to pay the highest possible legal amounts.

Councillor Julian Bell said he was in favour of introducing fixed penalty notices of £400.

The move would make it easier and cheaper for councils to clamp down on those who dump even small amounts of rubbish, he said.

"Fly tipping blights many communities in London and can cause environmental damage. Incurring a larger fine is more likely to deter people from doing it again," he added.

Maggie's car is up for sale

THE last official car allocated to Margaret Thatcher is to be auctioned off by the Government later this year for around £25,000.

Baroness Thatcher had the use of the armoured Jaguar XJ8 from 2009 until she died in 2013.

To ensure the car was secure, Jaguar gave it underfloor kevlar protection, bulletproof windows, ballistic steel armouring and a titanium roof.

Under the reinforced bonnet is a 4.2-litre V8 engine which gives the car a top speed approaching 155mph.

The 2006 Jaguar was also loaned to David Cameron during the 2010 election and was used by him en-route to Downing Street after his first meeting with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

It is owned by the Department for Transport which has entered it into Christie's Out of the Ordinary Sale on September 14.

All revenue from the Jaguar's sale will go back into the country's coffers.

It has been given a guide price of £15,000 to £25,000 but various items owned and used by the late female Prime Minister are known to sell for huge premiums.



Baroness Thatcher had the use of this armoured Jaguar XJ8 from 2009 until she died in 2013. Jaguar gave it underfloor kevlar protection, bulletproof windows, ballistic steel armouring and a titanium roof

Picture: Denise Bryant/SWNS

Renters to raise their voices

A WEST London composer who believes the healing power of music can help to tackle serious mental health problems is now taking the fight to rogue landlords – by launching his own renters' choir, writes Jack Dixon.

Sergio Lopez Figueroa wants to drive up standards in the private rented sector by raising awareness of Londoners' shocking living conditions. But rather than protesting with banners and placards, he is forming his own choir to champion the cause through song.

Mr Figueroa, 50, is assembling a team of singers – all private renters – to compose brand new songs inspired by their real life experiences.

He hopes to pressure politicians into enforcing new compulsory minimum standards on landlords in the capital.

Mr Figueroa launched the 'Section 21' project – named after the controversial eviction notice that landlords can use to boot out tenants – after his own renting nightmare.

He recently moved from Pimlico to Harrow in search of a permanent place to live but is still technically homeless.

"I complained about my flat because it was too cold but environmental health inspectors said they could do nothing about it," he said.

"I was left on my own - and there are lots of people like that. When it happens over a period of months it can really affect your mental health."

Mr Figueroa said there was a direct connection between poor housing and mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.

He wants to see tougher rules for landlords to prevent squalid conditions blighting

Londoners' lives.

The choir, he said, would become "the voice of the hidden and fragmented community" of renters in the capital.

"The 20 members will be a reflection of our city and society," he added.

"We need to make London a liveable city where homes are not just financial assets."

The Section 21 choir will be rehearsing well-known songs adapted to include new lyrics reflecting the real life experiences of renters.

The ultimate aim is to record a CD, take part in a series of public performances and lobby local politicians for their support.

Mr Figueroa, who also runs a 'Humming in Harmony' workshop in Westminster for people with mental health difficulties, said music was "the most powerful healer" for the mind.

He described London's renting crisis as a public health epidemic that was causing severe emotional problems on a large scale.

"Music helped me to manage the number of life challenges I had - from long-term physical conditions and the stress and isolation I experienced living in a flat that made me sick," he added.

"Humming makes us listen to ourselves and others simultaneously, and enables us to release emotions in a safe group environment, bringing down barriers as everybody can hum and be creative again."

For more information about the Section 21 project and to audition for a place in the choir you can contact Sergio Lopez Figueroa by email: info@humminginharmony.com



Sergio Lopez Figueroa wants to drive up standards in the private rented sector by raising awareness of Londoners' shocking living conditions

New test for Angelina gene saving lives

BY LWN REPORTER

edit@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A NEW way to test women for the Angelina Jolie cancer gene mutation – which is being piloted in London – is helping to save lives.

The Hollywood star went public in 2013 about her double mastectomy and having both ovaries removed after finding out she carried the BRCA1 mutation.

She had the operation because she lost her mother, grandmother and aunt to the disease and feared she was at risk too.

Women who carry a faulty BRCA1 gene are at high risk of developing aggressive cancer and have no option but to choose surgery.

Currently all ovarian cancer patients are eligible for BRCA testing under current NHS recommendations, yet testing is patchy and less than a third actually get tested.

Results from a new pilot at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in Sutton found if ovarian cancer patients are offered the genetic test at a routine appointment, they accept it.

It then allows relatives to be warned they may be at risk so they in turn can take made aware of the early symptoms or take steps to prevent cancer.

The new testing pathway was also quick as the women do not have to be referred to a separate genetic testing clinic so cuts down on costs.

If implemented nationally, it could save the NHS £2.6 million a year, researchers said.

The pilot involved 207 women with ovarian cancer who all agreed to take part in the new testing pathway.

This reduced hospital visits for patients and substantially reduced the time taken for testing to be completed.

Results could then be incorporated into clinical decision making and were useful in deciding medical management of four-fifths of the patients who were receiving cancer treatment.

This included 32 women found to have a BRCA mutation, many of whom became eligible for new precision medicines only suitable for women with BRCA-related ovarian cancer.

All patients found to have a BRCA mutation automatically get an appointment with the genetics team to discuss the implications for themselves and their families in detail.

For each patient identified with a BRCA mutation, on average three family members also decided to see a geneticist to discuss the implications for them.

The new testing pathway has now become standard at The Royal Marsden and is being adopted by other hospitals in the UK and internationally.

Many more women with ovarian cancer have received BRCA testing as a result, the study published in the journal Scientific Reports said.

A companion study found the new approach to testing was extremely cost-effective, because many healthy relatives at high risk of cancer make choices that reduce their chance of develop-

ing the disease.

If all 7,000 women diagnosed with epithelial ovarian cancer in the UK each year were offered testing, just a single year's testing is likely, over time, to prevent hundreds of breast and ovarian cancers and dozens of deaths in their relatives, the study found.

The researchers showed that national implementation for all ovarian cancer patients would cost £4,339 per quality-adjusted life year – far below the £20,000 threshold that is used to decide what tests and treatments the NHS should offer.

Study leader Professor Nazneen Rahman, Head of Cancer Genetics at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), said: "We know BRCA gene testing can be greatly beneficial for women with ovarian cancer, allowing their care to be tailored to their individual genetic information, and improving the cancer risk information we can provide to their families."

"Our new gene testing pathway is faster, simpler and better designed for cancer patients' needs than the standard NHS process."

"Our study has shown that it is not only a feasible way of providing BRCA testing to all eligible women with ovarian cancer, but could also prevent cancers



Angelina Jolie

and save the NHS millions of pounds a year."

Professor Martin Gore, Consultant Medical Oncologist at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The new genetic testing pathway has been a huge success in the clinic."

"It all runs very smoothly and I know that patients and their families are really most appreciative."

Preeti Dudakia, 49, an ovarian cancer patient at The Royal Marsden who took part in the study, said: "My cancer team explained why the test was useful very clearly and when it came back positive I was able to have a treatment only given to women with a BRCA mutation."

"If my mother had been able to have this testing when she got ovarian cancer I would have known I was at risk sooner."

"My situation could have been completely different."

Professor Paul Workman, Chief Executive of The ICR added: "Twenty years ago the BRCA2 gene was identified at the ICR."

"This study is an excellent example of how science such as this can be turned into something very practical that can improve the patient care and save lives."

"We hope the new model for genetic testing will be rolled out across the NHS."

Kate's really made the grade with a watch named in her honour

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

IS there nothing that the hugely-popular Duchess of Cambridge does not inspire?

Now she has joined the elite club who have had a watch created in their honour.

Wearing an expensive Swiss watch is a good way to say 'I've made it' but having an expensive Swiss watch named after you is the way to announce 'I've really made it' and now Kate is to be so honoured.

As the inspiration for a prestigious bit of time-keeping kit, she follows Paul Newman (Rolex Daytona, price £60,000), Steve McQueen (the Heuer Monaco) French skiing legend Jean-Claude Killy (Rolex chronograph, £30,000) and the world's most famous athlete, Usain Bolt, who wears a yellow gold Big Bang Unico Bolt chronograph, yours for £31,600.

Now the Duchess of Cambridge is the inspiration for the latest watch from Delance.

Delance this year celebrates its 20th anniversary, and its founder and designer Giselle Rufer has come up with a de-



The Delance 'Kate' honours the Duchess of Cambridge with two blue sapphires set at the birth times of her children

sign based around Kate and her children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

The blue mother-of-pearl dial of the watch sits within a swirling stainless steel mount; two small blue sapphires are placed on the dial to represent the times when each of the Royal children were born 4:24 and 8:34. At the bottom of the dial is a larger blue sapphire encased in a tighter swirl, and this is said to "reflect the love between the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge".

Owners of the watch can choose either a stainless steel bracelet to match the mount, or a blue leather strap to re-

flect the sapphires contained within the mount. Similarly, it is available with either a quartz or wind-up movement, and for those owners who wish to dive from their yachts, as we all do at this time of the year, it is guar-

anteed up to depths of 30m.

Delance was founded in 1996 by Giselle Rufer and the aim has always been to superb Swiss craftsmanship with the élan and chic of French design to create a watch for women that has been designed and made by women.

Giselle has said: "Being a woman is wonderful, is magic, is mysterious. Gather your courage and be all that you can be." This is taken by royal watch watchers to be a reference to the Duchess.

No prices are available yet but the Kate watch is bound to be on the 'I want' list in posher homes this Christmas.

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A touch of royal bling for your pooch

HER Majesty's dogs are the inspiration for the new line of souvenirs revealed to attract summer visitors to the Buckingham Palace shop – and you can buy the whole set for your pooch for around £500.

The Royal Collection has gone corgi-crazed with a new, 12-item line of everything you should want for your pet – from a dog bed for £75, a dog coat for £45, a Buckingham Palace crest dog bowl at £25, plus a dog blanket, brush, collar, lead, dog bandana, toy, accessory pooch pouch and a £4.95 rubber toy in the shape of the sovereign's crown.

The exclusive range of pet accessories comes in Hunting Stewart Tartan, the livery worn at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

And if that's not enough, corgi-shaped pendants are to go on sale in a new range for the Royal Collection to mark the summer opening of Buckingham Palace.

The handcrafted necklaces by jeweller Alex Monroe pay tribute to the Queen's much-loved pets. The 22-carat gold plated corgi



pendants cost £150 each, while the sterling silver version is priced at £126. Royal fans can also purchase a diamond-set pendant engraved with a corgi and decorated with bows and flowers inspired by the interiors of Buckingham Palace in silver for £126 and gold-plated for £180.

Other new pieces in the collection include a crown pendant inset with a diamond in silver for £156 and gold-plated for £180, and a coach pendant with moveable wheels, inspired by the Diamond Jubilee State Coach, priced at £195 in silver and £225 for gold-plated.



Photographer Matt Porteous captured these images of Prince George to mark his third birthday, and found him playing with the family pet, Lupo. The photograph was taken at their Norfolk home in mid-July

Pictures: Matt Porteous/SWNS

Balmoral, one's favourite holiday home

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THEY'RE packing bags at Buckingham Palace as the Royal Family prepares for its traditional holiday away from it all, in Balmoral for August and September.

Like workers at every other "factory" in Britain, the Royal Family not unreasonably looks forward to a time when the works shuts up shop and they can relax on a getaway with a good book and a lot of lie-ins.

For The Queen the getaway has always been Balmoral, the 50,000-acre estate in Royal Deeside where she can daily walk her beloved Labradors, take in the air that is 1,000-times cleaner than the much-polluted smog which surrounds Buckingham Palace and perhaps enjoy an evening dram of the rare Royal Lochnagar Single Malt whisky which is exclusively made at her home.

Balmoral is special to The Queen for many reasons. For starters, she owns it. Unlike Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace, where she is in effect a "reigning tenant" as they are owned by the Crown Estate - i.e. the nation - Balmoral is hers; all done, dusted and paid for.

The royals have to thank Prince Albert for that. Back in 1852, it was Albert and not his

wife Queen Victoria who paid £32,000 for the original castle and land, meaning that Balmoral was a private property.

At current rates - where six-bedroom flats in Kensington is sell for more than £20 million - it was the bargain of the century; according to the Bank of England's inflation calculator, buying Balmoral cost Prince Albert the equivalent of today's £3,990,123.

But for Queen Victoria, the purchase was priceless as it gave her a sanctuary from busybodies bothering her with affairs of State.

No wonder that she recorded in her diary that in Balmoral, "all seemed to breathe freedom and peace, and to make one forget the world and its sad turmoils".

But in return the royals made the Highlands popular and fashionable; Queen Victoria and her party wore tartan, hosted highlands games and promoted the culture of the region. On one occasion Queen Victoria so expressed her love for the place that she even declared herself to be a Jacobite, establishing a royal favoritism for Scotland which remains to this day.

But although Her Majesty - who is said to work from 8.0 am to 9.0 pm on a normal weekday at Buckingham Palace - will be getting a break, it isn't much of one. For



Her Majesty the Queen's favourite holiday getaway has always been to Balmoral Castle

even though she is on holiday, "the office" is always interrupting.

And while you and I can relax on vacation with the latest Maeve Binchy, for The Queen holiday reading often means complex and turgid policy papers written in that civil servant English which is migraine-making to decipher.

"Every day of every year, wherever she is, The Queen receives from Government Ministers, and from her representatives in the Commonwealth and foreign countries, information in the form of policy papers, Cabinet documents, telegrams, letters and other State papers," said a spokesman at the Palace.

"These are sent up to her by the Private Secretaries in the Red Boxes. All of these papers have to be read and, where necessary, approved and signed."

But even without that atrocity-making task to look forward to "every day, wherever she is", The Queen's "holiday" also demands other work of her.

There's the Balmoral farmers needing meetings, reports from her team of rangers to consider and, in any moment's peace, the 180,000 hill walkers who yearly visit the estate to avoid.

Then there's the calls on her time from her environmental projects at Balmoral. As a

breeder of rare cattle, she has to look over the herd of Balmoral Highland cows which she established in 1953, and there is inspection to be done of the 500 acres of new woodland - rowan, birch, willow, scrub oak and Scots Pine - which The Queen is cultivating on an open area of hillside at Glen Gelder as part of a Government project assessing "the environmental impact of the extension of native woodland" with the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

And then there's the red deer to count, no easy task either - as the Palace explains:

"The estate is a founder member of the East Grampian Deer Management Group and has taken a lead in establishing a deer population model, which is at the forefront of the Deer Management Commission for Scotland's programme to manage the deer population and restore heather habitat."

"The intention is to maintain a deer population of about 2,700, but about 3,300 red deer were counted on the estate in spring 1998 and in May 1999, only 1,650 red deer were counted, illustrating the difficulties of managing such a mobile population."

Of course The Queen does get sometime to relax at Balmoral, driving her beloved Land Rover to picnics with the Duke of Edinburgh and other

family at a hideaway wooden lodge.

But even then she has to do the washing up. As her former Press Secretary Dickie Arbiter revealed, after one such picnic The Queen led him and the crockery to the lodge's kitchen and said, "I'll wash, you dry".

Hands that do dishes also always have to be ready at Balmoral for a sudden visit from a Prime Minister on some pressing matter of national urgency.

David Cameron, who had to make such interrupting visits when he was at No 10, was struck by The Queen's refusal to totally "chillax" on holiday. He revealed that when they shared a two-hour dog walk on the banks of Loch Muick to discuss an important affair of State, even then she gave more work to herself by insisting that they stop so that she could clear away leaves and sticks that were blocking a stream.

She's had a busy year this year, has Her Majesty, and so has the Duke of Edinburgh, who at the age of 95 has not missed one occasion to support The Queen at her many 90th birthday events.

Let us hope that this year their summer holiday can be uninterrupted by affairs of State. They won't be, of course, Britain's busiest woman will still be kept at it.

Capital nights

Ivory power

And now, classical music for the Adele generation as record company bosses launch Parker, a former student at University College London, as the pianist for discerning young ears, writes Geoff Baker.

Parker, who was Grade 8 at piano by the age of 12, is tipped by Gateway Records to "breathe new life into the traditional music scene" with her debut EP, *13*, featuring tracks by Scarlatti and Liszt.

The fact that the former history of art student looks like a stunning Nordic beauty of course has nothing whatsoever to do with the high hopes that are being held for the exceptionally-talented 29-year-old.



Parker's career is up and running

May-Ellis tour

In response to public demand, Queen star Brian May and singing Kerry Ellis have announced they are teaming up once more for a new series of UK concerts at the end of the year.

May and Ellis will play 11 shows across the country in the lead-up to Christmas. Their Candlelit Christmas Tour kicks off on 7 December in Dorking, with the final date on 23 December in Guildford.

The concerts mark the pair's sixth tour together since their first 'Anthems' shows in 2011, which they performed on the release of Ellis's first album, produced by May.



It's hard to believe that south London singer-songwriter Jamie T turned 30 this year. For many millennials he remains the prodigal son of youthful rock rebellion; a flag-bearer for the scruffy-haired.

Now approaching 10 years at the top, he is poised to release his fourth full-length album, *Trick*, before returning to London for a trio of shows at the Brixton Academy, not far from his hometown of Wimbledon.

One of the most distinctive and recognisable voices in British music, Jamie Alexander Treays first broke through almost a decade ago with his sing-along sleeper hit *Sheila*.

His latest effort arrives after a gap of two years and is charged with the brand of vibrancy and vigour that can only come from a man who has rediscovered his love of writing, recording and performing.

Spearheaded by the single *Tinfoil Boy*, which was named Radio 1 DJ Annie Mac's 'hottest record', the highly-anticipated album will hit the shelves on September 2.

Recorded partly in London, partly in Detroit, *Trick* features co-production duties from Jamie's long-time collaborator James Dring.

He describes this latest offering as a "brave and eclectic rock/punk/reggae/rap/pop celebration" inspired by

"claustrophobic London summers".

Youthful reminiscence, earworm choruses and snarky humour are present from start to finish, Jamie explains, and the album has been tipped by many as a proud and punchy summing up of the singer's signature tropes.

Following the triumphant success of 2014's comeback album *Carry On The Grudge*, Jamie T is moving closer towards a new role as the elder statesman of indie rock. To his credit, he still has an army of adoring fans right behind him.

Jamie T will perform at the Brixton Academy on October 8, 9 and 10

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Gogol Bordello

KOKO, Camden
Tuesday July 26
Wednesday July 27

'Gypsy punk' pioneers who among the few that can rightfully claim to be truly unique in their field. Formed in Manhattan, New York, the band's energetic sound incorporates 'knees-up' accordion clap-alongs laden with sax and violins. Renowned as festival favourites for their colourful live performances.



DJ Shadow

Electric Brixton, Brixton
Wednesday July 27

US producer who created one of the decade's iconic albums with 1996 smash hit record *Endtroducing*. Famed for crafting a brand of instrumental hip hop music that inspired a generation of artists. Returned this year with his sixth LP after a five-year absence.



Benga

The Nest, Dalston
Friday July 29
Croydon dubstepper who became a leading light in the scene alongside his childhood friend Skream. Created major waves with debut album *Diary of an Afro Warrior* and has caused a stir with sounds from his latest LP *Future Funk*. Perfect fit for a late-night set at the Dalston basement venue.

A brand new music and literary festival, *Caught By The River Thames*, comes to Fulham Palace this summer. In the run-up to the two-day extravaganza, Jack Dixon takes a closer look at some of the most exciting acts on the bill

If you knew him as the effeminate frontman of 90s indie rockers The Charlatans, you might now struggle to recognise Tim Burgess.

Gone is the tousled black mane, replaced with a shock of blonde that hangs right over his eyes and forehead a la Boris Johnson.

The look is not the only thing that's changed for Burgess in recent years. While still recording with the band, he's also launched his own label and is poised to publish his second book later this year.

The elegantly-titled *Tim Book Two: Vinyl Adventures From Istanbul to San Francisco* pools together a collection of records recommended to Burgess by his celebrity friends.

His journey took him all over the world in pursuit of physical copies of each cut – a mission that doubled as a stroll down memory lane for Burgess



as well as a glimpse into the inner workings of the steadily reviving trade in vinyl.

The book follows his 2012 musical memoir *Telling Stories* and last year's Charlatans comeback album *Modern Nature*, as Burgess continues to plough his own creative furrow.

"Tim Burgess knows why pop is art, a culture and a cure," says Johnny Marr, the former guitarist in fellow Manchester band The Smiths. "Learn and listen – he knows good things."

Burgess will be in conversation with writer Emma Warren at *Caught By The River Thames* on Saturday August 6.

London music
London theatre
London film

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Capital nights

PAUL Simonon smashing a Fender bass into the New York Palladium stage on the cover of The Clash's *London Calling*; Ziggy Stardust's shock of orange hair glowing as he reaches out to the audience; Pete Townshend's windmill guitar strum at the frantic finale to My Generation. All iconic images that have come to define rock history.

But how many thousands of fans might never have been inspired by these memorable moments without the man behind the camera?

Would Jonny Rotten's famous snarl still be the instantly recognisable face of punk? Would Robert Plant's lion main still be symbolic of the sex, drugs and rock'n'roll lifestyle? Would the androgynous Jagger's preening strut have made him a counter-culture hero, or a laughing stock?

The images of our rock legends will live on forever and continue to inspire future generations long after the stars themselves have faded from glory.

And it's a particularly dedicated breed of snapper – the lesser-spotted rock photographer – that we have to thank for these memories.

Of all the mysterious men and women behind the lens, few will have been at the front line to witness quite so many legendary moments as Ross Halfin. He's photographed some of the biggest names in rock over the last 40 years, including the likes of The Who, Led Zeppelin and Free.

After picking up a camera for the first time as a student in south west London, Ross soon developed a taste for the art.

Within weeks he was sneaking his kit into gigs to snap Roger Daltrey and Robert Plant. And his career took off when he began sending his finest work into the London music press – *NME*, *Sounds* and *Melody Maker*.

It was his shot of guitar heroes AC/DC that secured him the first ever cover image for *Kerrang!* magazine.

"They all started publishing my photos just as the punk scene happened and I ended up shooting The Clash, The Sex Pistols, The Jam, Adam Ant, The Adverts, The Specials, and Blondie. I preferred shooting bands like UFO, Ted Nugent and Rush, mainly because they had light shows."

Ross says he originally

wanted to be a painter and was studying fine art at the Wimbledon School of Art when he picked up his first camera.

"I hated art college and thought it was hugely pretentious," he adds. "The tutors were only interested in modern art."

Ross, whose catalogue of rock images now stretches over four decades, will display a selection of never-before-seen snaps as part of a display at the Novotel Conference Centre in Hammersmith. The exhibition takes place during *The Indulgence Show*, a three-day showcase of audio-based entertainment, in October.

Ross will also tell tales of his road trips with the likes of Iron Maiden, Metallica and Kiss during the 1980s, during which time he worked as

a tour photographer for Paul McCartney, George Harrison and The Who.

Vernon Hamblin, producer for *The Indulgence Show*, said: "Ross has toured the world countless times capturing for posterity some of the major events in music – and it is a real coup for us to be able to present this exhibition of his rare photographs."

"Expect to see shots of the likes of The Rolling Stones, The White Stripes, Iron Maiden, The Who, Pink Floyd, ZZ Top, Paul Weller, The Clash, Amy Winehouse and many others in our special gallery area at the show. "We are particularly delighted that Ross has agreed to talk to show visitors about his life in rock photography, giving the music fan and photography lover a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this unique collection and hear from the man himself."

The Indulgence Show takes place at the Novotel Conference Centre in Hammersmith from October 14-16



Ross Halfin, pictured, captured rock giants David Gilmour and Jeff Beck, left, Lemmy, right and below, Amy Winehouse and Roger Daltrey



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IMAGES OF ROCK LEGENDS
By Jack Dixon



Capital nights

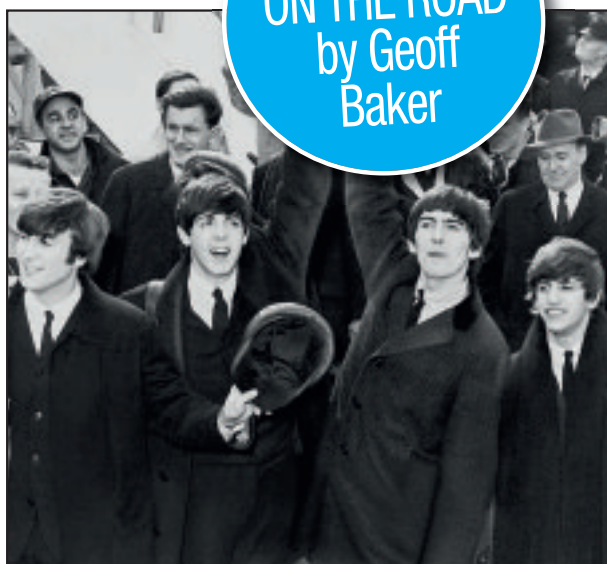
EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

BEATLES
ON THE ROAD
by Geoff
Baker

Return of Tennison

TENNISON, the much-anticipated prequel to ITV's *Prime Suspect*, has begun filming on location in London.

Stefanie Martini (*Doctor Thorne*, *Endeavour*, *Emerald City*), Sam Reid (*Belle*, *The Riot Club*) and Blake Harrison (*Dad's Army*, *The Inbetweeners*) join forces to star in the six-hour series which portrays the young Jane Tennison (Stefanie Martini) at the beginning of her career, revealing why she became such a complex and formidable character in the Metropolitan Police. Sam Reid and Blake Harrison are cast as Jane's superiors DCI Len Bradfield and DS Spencer Gibbs.



If you thought that there was nothing left to learn about The Beatles, Ron Howard's movie *Eight Days A Week* will prove you very wrong, says Geoff Baker. The Beatles are pictured above at the start of their first US tour

It says much about the music business these days that one of the biggest rock events of the year is going to be the premiere on

September 15 of a film about a four-man band who, were they all still living, would be 299-years-old between them now, and who stopped doing concerts 50 years ago next month, *writes Geoff Baker*.

If you thought that there was nothing left to learn about The Beatles, Ron Howard's movie *Eight Days A Week* will prove you very wrong. Not for nothing is it to be promoted under the slogan "the band you know, the story you don't".

Eight Days A Week is a super-classy documentary about the touring years, mainly 1963 to 1966, the years of mania when very few knew then, or know now, what it was like living, as John Lennon put it, "in the eye of the hurricane".

The Beatles were the original boy band and the story of all those teen sensations who have come since – from The Osmonds to Take That to One Direction – are merely footnotes to the incredible journey that four scruffs from Liverpool took to shake the world.

We've all seen their US debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, we all know the cheeky quip about "rattling your jewellery" at the Royal Variety Performance. But what most have very little idea about is what it was like being a Beatle on the road. If you thought that it must have been like the japes and jinks depicted in *A Hard Day's Night*, think again – as the film reveals, it was much more of *A Hard Day's Nightmare*.

By the time that The Beatles agreed to pack in performing – a decision they agreed unanimously whilst travelling in an armoured car to their last gig at Candlestick Park, San Francisco, on August 29 1966 – they had survived a lynch mob in the Philippines, death threats in Japan and warnings from the Ku Klux Klan that they would be shot onstage.

So great and real were the threats against the band that when somebody threw a firecracker during a show on their last tour of the States, they all turned around to look at each other to see which one of them had been shot.

Although mania is the accepted word to describe what The Beatles went through in the three years that they rarely came off the road – and if they did it

would be only to make a film or record a new album – raving insanity describes it better. When touring England in a van they were so cold that they would lie on top on each other in the back, using the body warmth of "a Beatle sandwich" to stop them shivering through the night.

After they left their hotel one time in Kansas City, the manager sold their unwashed 16-sheet bed linen to two Chicago businessmen who cut it up into three-inch squares and sold it, mounted on card with an affidavit, at \$10 a pop.

In New York City, cans of "Beatle breath" sold out in a day and in Australia streams of disabled people would be brought backstage and left in their dressing room "to be touched by a Beatle" in the expectation of a cure.

"I remember being on the roof of one hotel in Australia, looking down having to wave at the massive crowd, and one guy who was on crutches threw them away and started yelling 'I can walk! I can walk!'", recalls Ringo.

"What he felt I don't know, but it was if he had been healed. And then he fell right on his face."

It was in another Australian hotel where, eight floors up, John's attention was grabbed by a knocking on the window. A fan had climbed up the drainpipe and had precariously balanced from balcony to balcony just to say hello to his hero.

But by 1966 things had turned dark. In Tokyo The Beatles were given armed guards and forbidden from leaving their rooms because of death threats from religious zealots who objected to them performing in the holy place that was the Budokan.

In Montreal, Ringo had to be given an armed guard onstage because some maniac thought he was Jewish and planned to shoot him.

"Threats we took in our stride," he said, "but this was one of the few times I was really worried. We were onstage and I had the cymbals up towards the audience to give me a bit of protection. I also had a plain-clothes policeman sitting there with me."

"But I started to get hysterical because I thought 'If someone in the audience is going to have a pop at me, what is this guy going to do? Is he going to catch the bullet?'"

Fans would throw anything at the Beatles just

to attract their attention during a show and get a 'he looked at me!' glance; Jelly Babies, which stuck to their shoes making it near-impossible for them to move around – skipping ropes, stuffed toys. Paul was once clouted in the eye and given a shiner by a hurled cigarette lighter.

"You feel a clonk on the back of your head and it's a shoe," John once recalled, "Then once one comes they all start thinking, 'Shoes: that'll attract their attention. If they get a shoe on the head, they're bound to look over here'".

Although it was an aggregate of events, it was probably the events on July 1966 in Manila that made The Beatles decide to throw in the concert towel.

Unknown to them, they had been summoned for a meet and greet with the Marcos family at the presidential palace. As the summons clashed with a very rare day off, they did not go.

Incited by the secret police of the Philippines dictator, crowds turned on the Fabes the next day in protest at the snub. No taxis would take them to the airport, fans spat at them, the once-adoring crowds turned into seething, yelling hate mobs and when they did eventually get to the airport, where the authorities turned off the escalators in protest, people threw their aides down the stairs as they tried to get close to the band to beat them up.

"I remember when we got back home a journalist asked George, 'Did you enjoy it?' and he said, 'If I had an atomic bomb I'd go over there and drop it on them'", said Paul.

Made with the co-operation of Paul and Ringo, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison, *Eight Days A Week* is set to be this autumn's massive movie sensation, for the first time revealing what it was like for a damn-good little rock and roll band to conquer the world in the pre-X Factor days when hard work was the only way to succeed.

And as always with this band, the film is punctuated with those gems of Beatle humour. As illustrated by George's memory of an open-air gig in Cincinnati:

"They had a bandstand with a canvas top on it. It was really bad weather, pouring with rain, and when Mal, our roadie, got there he said, 'Where's the electricity power feed?' And the fella said, 'What do you mean, electricity? I thought they played guitars.'"

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Talk of the town

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang- New Wimbledon Theatre *****

THE last time I watched the stage adaptation of the classic film musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, was at the London Palladium and I had a very excited little girl with me, who was completely mesmerised by the captivating story, rousing music and, of course, the magical flying car.

More than 12 years later, the same little girl and I were equally enthralled by the new touring production of the show, which landed at the New Wimbledon Theatre this week, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Based on the 1968 film, which starred Dick Van Dyke as the hapless inventor, Caractacus Potts, this musical extravaganza is everything you could possibly wish for in a family musical and James Brining's new production has kept all of the spectacle of former stage incarnations, but with an added depth to the beloved characters.

Lee Mead stars as the lovable single dad, who desperately hopes to create an invention which will change the fortunes of his little family. A real life single dad, Mead's relationship with his onstage offspring is utterly compelling and the infinitely watchable actor shows off his glorious vocals and surprisingly slick dance moves within a multitude of well known songs including the uplifting Toot Sweets, the Hushabye Mountain lullaby and the invigorating Me Ol' Bamboo.

His Truly Scrump-tious is wonderfully portrayed by Carrie Hope Fletcher, who gives the confectionary manufacturer's daughter a zesty energy and absolutely lives up to her name.

They are matched well by Shaun Williamson and Michelle Collins as the Vulgarian Bombursts, whose hatred for children and employment of the ultra-creepy, yet beautifully balletic, child catcher (Matt Gillett), ultimately results in their imprisonment.

Their dirty work is mostly carried out by a duo of useless spies, hilariously played Sam Harrison and Scott Paige, who add some fabulous contemporary humour to the classic script.

Even more impressive, however,

The fantastical machine evokes ripples of excitement when it first enters



Too Sweet Carrie Hope Fletcher and Lee Mead in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Photos by Alastair Muir



Ex Eastenders Michelle Collins and Shaun Williamson as The Bombursts and, right, Matt Gillett as the Childcatcher

are the pairing of children played by Team Purple's Henry Kent and Lucy Sherman at the performance I enjoyed (there are three teams, who take turns), who both provided a mature command of the stage and promise to be stars of the future.

Choreographer Stephen Mear has added some impact to the big ensemble numbers, particularly the scene within the Bomburst's castle,

where the Baroness' Bombie Samba is simply breathtaking.

I must also mention the flying car, of course, which rather than just acting as a stage prop becomes one of the lead characters in its own right. The fantastical machine evokes ripples of excitement throughout the auditorium when it first enters and the moment when it takes to the air is simply awe in-

spiring.

This is a magnificently majestic and magical musical which will thrill audiences of all ages and a show I would urge you to catch before it flies off to another part of the country.

The Chitty Chitty Bang Bang run at the New Wimbledon Theatre has now come to end but you can catch it in Woking in November this year.

Wilma back with more awards

THE West End's favourite Nana will be bestowing her coveted accolades once again this year, as the West End Wilma Awards return to the Hippodrome Casino in November.

The Wilma Awards were launched in 2014 and last year moved to the much larger Hippodrome Casino Matcham Room, where guests included Beverley Knight, Eva Noblezada, Jon Jon Briones (Miss Saigon), Ashleigh Gray and Oliver Saville (Wicked).

The 2016 awards promise to be the biggest and best yet, with host Tim McArthur and special guest performances from Natasha J Barnes, Four Femmes on the Thames and, Wilma Awards regular Kieran Brown, who will give a rewritten comedy performance of a well-known musical theatre song.

This year's nominees will be announced on 12th August 2016 and a limited number of tickets are available for the ceremony on Friday November 4 at the Hippodrome Casino at 2pm.

Tickets are £20, to book visit www.hippodromecasino.com/events/west-end-wilma-theatre-awards-2/.

Christmas with Joe Stilgoe

SWING star, Joe Stilgoe and his big band will take up residency at the Lyric, Hammersmith this Christmas to provide three nights of seasonal mayhem, mischief and romance.

Mixing new songs with his inimitable take on favourite yuletide classics, Joe and his band promise a warm, wild and wickedly funny Christmas cracker that will appeal to all ages.

The trio of unique concerts comes hot on the heels of Joe recording his own BBC Radio 2 special at the Lyric in July.

An acclaimed virtuoso, Joe Stilgoe has twice topped the UK jazz chart and recently starred in The Old Vic's production of the classic musical High Society, providing the ingenious and hilarious piano prelude to each night's performance.

Joe will play the three nights at the Lyric, Hammersmith on Monday, December 5, 12 and 19.

For more details visit the website www.lyric.co.uk



Virtuoso Joe Stilgoe

Talk of the town

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time *****

FELT very fortunate last week to be invited to see a brand new cast take over the mantle in the award winning production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at the Gielgud Theatre, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Although I had previously read the book by Mark Hadden and enjoyed a National Theatre Live screening of the play a few years ago, this was my first time watching the production on stage and I was utterly mesmerised by the spectacular stage effects and outstanding performances.

The story is told through the eyes of Christopher, a special 15-year-old boy, who has an aptitude for mathematics.

As someone on the autistic spectrum, Christopher sees the world in a different way to many and often finds human emotions baffling.

After finding his neighbour's dog has been brutally murdered, Christopher decides to do some of his own detective work to establish the identity

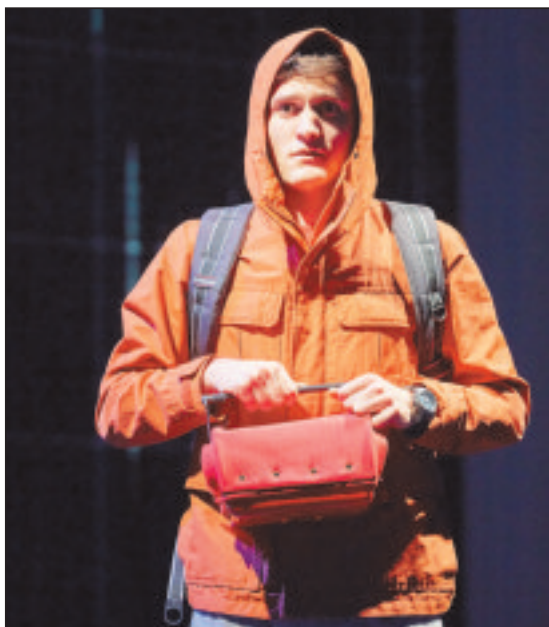
of the killer, but uncovers some unnerving home truths, which lead to worrisome consequences.

Joseph Ayre has taken over the role of Christopher, but as I watched a matinee performance, I got the absolute pleasure of seeing his alternative, Thomas Dennis, whose subtle and sensitive portrayal of the teenager is spellbinding.

He is ably supported by the excellent ensemble cast including Jo Castleton as his school support worker Siobhan and the wonderfully brooding Nicholas Tennant, who plays Christopher's father.

The auditorium was filled with school parties on the afternoon I attended, which meant the atmosphere was filled with the appreciative chirping of teenagers, all enjoying the fast paced and hugely educational play.

The National Theatre production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* continues at the Gielgud Theatre. For more information you can visit the website curiousonstage.com



Thomas Dennis as Christopher, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Photo by BrinkhoffMögenburg

In with the in crowd in 1963

AN all star cast will take to the stage at Trafalgar Studios later this year to perform the European première of the musical *Vanities*.

Lauren Samuels (*Bend It Like Beckham*), Ashleigh Gray (*Wicked*, *Cool Rider*) and Lizzy Connolly (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*) will star in the American story, which makes its London debut for the 10th anniversary of the musical (book by Jack Hefner and music and lyrics by David Kirshenbaum) and 40th anniversary of the play.

Vanities is a hilarious and heartfelt story about three best friends growing up in Dallas at a time when image and style were more important than brains and ambition.

Set in 1963, *Vanities* follows Mary, Kathy and Joanne as they obsess over their cheer leader routines, choose their sororities and plan their wedding outfits – because even though the President has been shot and America's on the brink of a war, the girls feel sure that if they just stay popular and don't lose their looks everything will be okay.

Vanities runs for a month at Trafalgar Studios from September 1 until October 1.

Tickets can be booked at atgtickets.com.

The Fix - life imitating art

IN the current political climate, both here and in the United States, a musical about the rise of a completely inept politician seems almost a little too apt, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

For the Union Theatre's first production, since relocating to their new space, *The Fix* by John Dempsey and Dana P Rowe seems the perfect choice and acts as a timely reminder of the need for satire in trying times and the frightening frequency with which life imitates art.

First performed in 1997, the musical follows a fictional First Family called the Chandlers, who, after the untimely death of the head of household (due to a mid-copulation strangulation), seek to continue the dynasty using a wayward young thrill seeker (played by Fra Free) as the latest in the line of pawns.

The venomous Violet (Lucy Williamson) and ghoulish Grahame (Ken Christiansen),



The chose one - Fra Free

concoct the catastrophic campaign with some great timing and despicable nuances, opposite Fra Free, who does a sterling job of depicting the troubled young puppet, lacking both the desire and ability to become a success.

The fabulous score

is beautifully performed and there is some inventive choreography by Michael Strassen, who also adds diversity to the action with his courageous direction.

I must admit that the astronomically high temperature of the auditorium on

the night I attended hugely hampered my enjoyment but on a cooler evening this is a contemporary theatrical offering, well worth a visit.

The *Fix* continues at the Union Theatre until August 6. Details can be found at www.uniontheatre.biz/the_fix.html



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Talk of the town



THE glorious Cadogan Hall with be filled with the sound of music, quite literally, next month as *Some Enchanted Evening*, a series of concerts celebrating the works of Rogers and Hammerstein, are performed by a host of stars *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, West End and Broadway legend Ruthie Henshall will be joined by the acclaimed opera singer, Lesley Garrett, stage stalwart, Gary Wilmot and musical theatre heartthrob, Michael Xavier for three nights at the Sloane Square venue.

They will be enriching the cavernous auditorium with renditions of songs from some of the most famous musicals ever written, including *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel* and *Oklahoma*.

At 49, Ruthie Henshall, is still one of the most recognisable names in British theatre and has enjoyed an exceptionally successful career, which saw her make her West End debut in *Cats* in 1986. Since then, the actress has been five times Olivier nominated and won the accolade of Best Actress in a musical for her portrayal of Amelia Balash in the 1994 revival of *She Loves Me*.

I caught up with the musical theatre icon, who told me about some of the songs she will be performing at the concerts from August 18 to 20.

Despite working extensively in musicals and enjoying almost unrivalled success as a stage star, Ruthie will be performing many of the songs for the first time.

She said: "It's almost like asking 'what numbers do you not sing?' I think that's what's so incredible about a new thing like this. The choice is so huge from Rogers and Hammerstein's music, so it's an utter joy. I don't know where to begin with which ones are my favourite."

Ruthie revealed, that amongst the set list she is to perform, are the rousing standards, *June is Busting Out all Over* from *Carousel*, *I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair* from *South Pacific* and *My Favourite Things* from *The Sound of Music*. I asked Ruthie if she was a fan of the classic musicals.

"Yeah, big time. It's hit after hit after hit and they dominated musical theatre for such a huge period of time. This show is a real testament to the amount of hits they had," Ruthie said.

"I grew up with all of these musicals and they are what made me want to get into musical theatre."

Ruthie Henshall has achieved almost unparalleled success on the London stage in a career that spans almost 30 years. In the early 1990s she famously dated Prince Edward



The choice is so huge from Rogers and Hammerstein's music so it's an utter joy

Some Enchanted Evening - Ruthie Henshall performs at the Cadogan Hall in August

and became one of the most popular stars in the West End. She performed many leading roles including *Polly in Crazy for You*, *Roxie in Chicago* and *Fantine in Les Misérables*, a role which she reprised for the 10th anniversary concert of the show at the Royal Albert Hall in 1995.

More recently, Ruthie has graced our screens as a judge on the ITV Primetime Saturday night entertainment show, *Dancing on Ice* and returned to the West End to play *Mrs Wilkinson* in *Billy Elliot* at the Victoria Palace Theatre.

I asked the star, what she would consider to be her career highlights.

Ruthie said: "I think we very rarely stop to take it in because we still feel like jobbing actors and ac-

tresses. In this business, it's feast or famine. It was only recently, when I had to dictate my CV and was pulling out the important points, that I had one of those moments where I thought wow! If I decided to give it all up tomorrow, I've actually done alright."

"I have been so fortunate to have, kind of, done it all really. I still pinch myself and I genuinely feel amazed that I get paid to do what I love, for a living."

Having played so many iconic roles, I wondered if there were any left, which the star still dreamed of playing.

"One of them has just been done recently, so we'd have to wait a while, but that's *Gypsy*," Ruthie said.

"I think it's absolutely got my name on it, but maybe in a few years time. I'd want to let the astounding performance by Imelda

Staunton drift slightly into the background, because it was so phenomenal and it might need to fade before I pick up the gauntlet."

The actress spent two years as *Mrs Wilkinson*, the straight taking ballet teacher in *Billy Elliot* before its recent closure. It was the longest period Ruthie had ever spent on a show, but she explains, that the musical about a young boy who overcomes adversity to fulfil his dreams of becoming a ballet dancer, is very close to her heart.

"The most I've ever done is a year in something. Most West End's want a year and normally that is long enough, but I could not bear to leave it. I was getting so much out of it and, I got completely caught up with the kids. I fell in love with them for two reasons really. One was that they change, so you're constantly having something new coming at you, so it's fresh all the time. Also I

just became so enmeshed with these kids. I adored them so much that I almost felt like a parent."

Ruthie has two daughters who are 11 and 13 and, as a single parent, has to manage her busy career alongside her parental duties. I asked Ruthie if performing in the West End for two years was a challenge to her home life.

"I'd love to tell you it was easy on them, but it wasn't. Children adapt, they always do, but it doesn't mean they like it. There are all sorts of things that spring off that. I've noticed a lot of competition between the girls for my attention. When I was doing *Billy*, I only got one day off a week, on Sunday, and for me the show was exhausting," Ruthie said.

Because of the number of children in the show and the need to change the young cast often, Ruthie spent a lot of time in rehearsals. She was also involved in the 10th anniversary celebrations and *Billy Live*, a screening of the show, which was beamed to cinemas around the world. As with many working parents, Ruthie felt under a lot of pressure.

"I wasn't out of that building. I was constantly in rehearsals, so it became a really full time job and that was hard on my girls and hard on me. I would only get Sundays and be good for nothing. It becomes all consuming and as much as I love what I do, you do feel like a part timer as a mum."

The actress has recently enjoyed a couple of months off and has thrived on the opportunity of doing the school runs and the other things many parents take for granted. Despite the difficulties, Ruthie hopes, her love for her job will act as an inspiration for her own two youngsters.

Ruthie said: "The other side of it is that they've seen a working mum who supports them and is doing something that she's passionate about and loves. I think that in itself is a great example to them as the women that they will grow into. They can support themselves and don't have to rely on anybody else and they can and must follow their passion. I couldn't bear my children to do a job they hated because I have loved mine so much."

I asked Ruthie if she had any advice for young actors, who are starting out in the business.

"You've got to love it. You'll spend a lot of time out of work and you will spend a lot of time doubting yourself, because part of our job is rejection."

"You've got to eat, sleep, breathe it and love it, because otherwise you won't last long."

Ruthie Henshall stars in *Some Enchanted Evening* alongside Lesley Garrett and Michael Xavier at Cadogan Hall, August 18-20 - cadogan-hall.com.

Wine & dine

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK



Grilled halloumi with romero peppers and red onions

Serves four

This is a dead simple one to do at a picnic. You could even pre-grill the onions and peppers at home if you wish, or just cook them in situ. If you can't find the long red romero peppers then normal red peppers will do, just quartered.

Ingredients

2 blocks of halloumi, cut into 1cm thick slices
4 romero peppers
2 large red onions, peeled and cut into 1cm thick slices
Vegetable or corn oil for brushing
1-2tbsp pomegranate molasses
A few sprigs of Greek basil (bush basil), to serve

Method

Cook the peppers and onions on the barbecue, turning them every so often for about 4-5 minutes. Be careful turning the onions so they don't fall apart; a fish slice or wide palette knife is best for this.

Once cooked arrange on a serving dish and spoon over a little of the pomegranate molasses.

Lightly brush the halloumi with oil and barbecue for 30 seconds or so on each side. Arrange the cheese on the peppers and onions, spoon a little more molasses over, and scatter the basil on top.



Perfect picnic food - grilled halloumi with romero peppers and red onions



The newly opened Balans Cafe in Seven Dials is perfect for a pre-theatre bite

Embrace the buzz at Balans

If you are going to Balans Soho Society for a meal, people are generally impressed. The famed Soho establishment has become a firm favourite with locals and visitors alike, but you don't have to limit yourself to the excellent dining experience of Old Compton Street anymore, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The restaurant chain is going from strength to strength with new venues springing up all over central London.

I popped along to the newly opened Balans Cafe in Seven Dials for a light pre-theatre bite and was hugely impressed with the level of service and general ambience of the place.

Within the contemporary surroundings, my companion and I thoroughly embraced the buzz and felt truly spoilt by the engaging and affable waiting staff.

I ordered a classic club sandwich (roast chicken, bacon, gem lettuce, tomato, avocado, mayo), served in a mountainous chunk of sourdough bread and accompanied by thin cut fries. At £10, it's not cheap, but the quality

matched the price and portion size was so generous, that it really constituted a main meal, rather than a simple snack.

My companion chose an all day breakfast (sausage, bacon, field mushroom, grilled tomato, beans, two eggs any way, toast) which was hearty and fulsome and we washed it down with a couple of cocktails.

The Panama Cream (Ron Abuelo rum, strawberry, lime, coconut) was a creamy



fruity treat and the traditional style Porn Star (Tito's vodka, vanilla, passion fruit, and champagne shot) was refreshing and summery.

After a glass each of a luxuriously crisp Sauvignon Blanc (Valle Central, Chile) we were satisfied and ready to head off to the theatre.

The service was fast, but very friendly, which makes Balans a great to visit for a pre-show bite.

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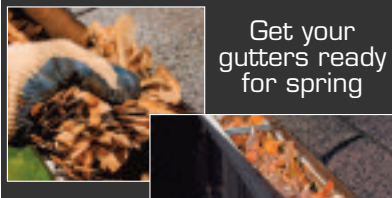
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Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.
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Replacement of existing 2no windows with new enlarged windows to the southern elevation at ground floor level.
30 Melrose Gardens London W6 7RW 2016/03193/FUL
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30 Melrose Gardens London W6 7RW 2016/03194/FUL
Erection of a rear and side dormer roof extension.
46 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2016/03179/FUL
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Erection of a rear dormer roof extension with a window and French doors with a Juliette balcony; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of two rooflights in the front roofslope.

23 Girdlers Road London W14 0PS 2016/00592/FUL
Replacement of all existing windows to front, rear and side elevations with white uPVC to match existing style.
York House 1A Seagrave Road London SW6 1RP 2016/03082/FUL
Erection of additional floor at roof level (5th floor level) in connection with the creation of 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat.
80 - 82 Goldhawk Road London W12 8HA 2016/02996/FUL
Change of use of 80 - 82 Goldhawk Road from a Betting Shop (Sui Generis) into a Hot Food Takeaway (Class A5); installation of a new shopfront including the installation of a second door on the front elevation; installation of an external extraction flue to the rear elevation from the flat roof of the back addition at first floor level up to roof level; installation of an air intake grille to the rear elevation at ground floor level; installation of a new security gate to the rear elevation at ground floor level; and installation of a condenser unit to the rear elevation at basement level.
152 West Cromwell Road London W14 9AE 2016/02133/ADV
Display of 3no. internally illuminated digital screens to be positioned inside the building, behind the existing windows, to the front elevation.
34 Queensmill Road London SW6 6JS 2016/03228/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a part one, part three storey side extension at ground, first and second floor level; excavation of the front, rear and side garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; installation of 3no dormer windows to replace the existing windows in the front roofslope; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation; alterations to the side fenestration at ground floor level.
60 Ongar Road London SW6 1SJ 2016/03208/FR3
Replacement of all existing timber sash windows and casement windows to the front and side elevations with new double glazed timber sash windows and double glazed casement windows; replace existing doors to side elevation at ground floor and first floor levels with new double glazed timber doors; replace all existing single glazed sash windows and casements windows to the rear elevation with uPVC double glazed sash windows.
19 Crondace Road London SW6 4BS 2016/03231/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of new doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation.
Garden Flat And Ground Floor 11 Greswell Street London SW6 6PR 2016/03164/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of the basement; alterations to change the pitch roof of the side extension to a flat roof.
61 Richmond Way London W14 0AS 2016/03001/FUL
Demolition of the protruding glazed aspects to side and front elevations; erection of a single storey front extension; erection of a two storey extension to side of main building at ground and first floor levels; erection of an additional floor at roof level; installation of two new windows to front elevation at ground floor level; replace the two existing windows at first floor level and an additional window with new timber sash windows; erection of new railings and fencing to front boundary.

61 Richmond Way London W14 0AS 2016/03002/FUL
Demolition of the protruding glazed aspects to side and front elevations; erection of a three storey front extension; erection of a two storey extension to side of main building at ground and first floor levels; erection of an additional floor at roof level; installation of two new windows to front elevation at ground floor level; replace the two existing windows at first floor level and an additional window with new timber sash windows; erection of new railings and fencing to front boundary.
Flat Ground Floor 39 Iffley Road London W6 0PB 2016/00938/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; installation of French doors with additional side panels in the rear elevation at ground floor level; alterations to window in rear elevation at ground floor level; extension of the basement under the dwellinghouse; new front light well (Revised Description).
Flat C Second Floor 6 Cromwell Grove London W6 7RG 2016/03200/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height, and including the installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony on the rear elevation at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level on top of the existing back addition; and installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope.
61 Rowan Road London W6 7DT 2016/03236/FUL
Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; alterations to the existing single storey rear extension to include the installation of a glazed roof lantern to replace existing and the installation of bi-folding doors to replace the existing sliding doors and window on the rear elevation.
18 Rowan Road London W6 7DU 2016/03044/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; replacement of existing window with a new window at ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of new glazed rooflights above the roof of single storey back addition; alterations to the front fenestration and above the roof of first floor side extension.
Advertising Under Bridge Wood Lane London 2016/03222/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated advertisement panel measuring 3m (height) x 12m (width) x 0.4m (depth) following the removal of 2no existing advertisement panels.
45 Iffley Road London W6 0PB 2016/03225/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.
All Saints School Bishop's Avenue London SW6 6ED 2016/02492/FUL
Installation of solar photovoltaic system (80no panels and framing) on the roof of school building.
27 Donerail Street London SW6 6EL 2016/03259/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and side garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; installation of 3no windows to replace the existing windows to the side of rear back addition, installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace the existing window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

49 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3UQ 2016/01752/FUL
Replacement of existing windows and front door with new double glazed windows and door at second floor level.
22 Braybrook Street London W12 0AP 2016/03028/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension.
21 Burlington Road London SW6 4NP 2016/03113/FUL
Retention of the front boundary wall.
Site Of 176 - 182 Goldhawk Road London 2016/03117/FUL
Material change of use of ground floor unit from retail (Class A1) into flexible use within class A1 (retail), class A2 (financial and professional services), class B1 (office), class D1 (non-residential institution) and class D2 (assembly and leisure).
Flat D Third Floor 37 Castletown Road London W14 9HF 2016/03132/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at third floor level, on top of the existing back addition.
Cradley House 241 New King's Road London SW6 4XG 2016/03152/FUL
Removal of the white porch around the front door.
Belushi's And St Christopher's Hammersmith Broadway London W6 7AB 2016/03155/FUL
Erection of rear extensions at first, second, third and fourth floor levels to form additional hostel accommodation; erection of an internal staircase from first floor to fourth floor level to the rear elevation; alterations and relocation of windows and a door at ground floor level, relocation of existing window at first floor level to the eastern side elevation; installation of an extract duct to the roof of back addition at fourth floor level; internal alterations to the existing hostel, including re-modelling of internal walls to modify the existing dormitory and bath/shower room layout and create new bath/shower rooms; modernisation of the retained elements of the kitchen; associated internal and external alterations.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING Flat Ground Floor 39 Iffley Road London W6 0PB 2016/00938/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; installation of French doors with additional side panels in the rear elevation at ground floor level; alterations to window in rear elevation at ground floor level; extension of the basement under the dwellinghouse; new front light well (Revised Description).
61 Rowan Road London W6 7DT 2016/03236/FUL
Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; alterations to the existing single storey rear extension to include the installation of a glazed roof lantern to replace existing and the installation of bi-folding doors to replace the existing sliding doors and window on the rear elevation.
18 Rowan Road London W6 7DU 2016/03044/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; replacement of existing window with a new window at ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of new glazed rooflights above the roof of single storey back addition; alterations to the front fenestration and above the roof of first floor side extension.
49 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3UQ 2016/01752/FUL
Replacement of existing windows and front door with new double glazed windows and door at second floor level.
Cradley House 241 New King's Road London SW6 4XG 2016/03152/FUL
Removal of the white porch around the front door.
Belushi's And St Christopher's Hammersmith Broadway London W6 7AB 2016/03155/FUL
Erection of rear extensions at first, second, third and fourth floor levels to form additional hostel accommodation; erection of an internal staircase from first floor to fourth floor level to the rear elevation; alterations and relocation of windows and a door at ground floor level, relocation of existing window at first floor level to the eastern side elevation; installation of an extract duct to the roof of back addition at fourth floor level; associated internal and external alterations.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 16th August 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Cradley House 241 New King's Road London SW6 4XG 2016/03153/LBC
Removal of the white porch around the front door.
Belushi's And St Christopher's Hammersmith Broadway London W6 7AB 2016/03156/LBC
Erection of rear extensions at first, second, third and fourth floor levels to form additional hostel accommodation; erection of an internal staircase from first floor to fourth floor level to the rear elevation; alterations and relocation of windows and a door at ground floor level, relocation of existing window at first floor level to the eastern side elevation; installation of an extract duct to the roof of back addition at fourth floor level; internal alterations to the existing hostel, including re-modelling of internal walls to modify the existing dormitory and bath/shower room layout and create new bath/shower rooms; modernisation of the retained elements of the kitchen; associated internal and external alterations.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING Flat Ground Floor 39 Iffley Road London W6 0PB 2016/00938/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; installation of French doors with additional side panels in the rear elevation at ground floor level; alterations to window in rear elevation at ground floor level; extension of the basement under the dwellinghouse; new front light well (Revised Description).
61 Rowan Road London W6 7DT 2016/03236/FUL
Excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; alterations to the existing single storey rear extension to include the installation of a glazed roof lantern to replace existing and the installation of bi-folding doors to replace the existing sliding doors and window on the rear elevation.
18 Rowan Road London W6 7DU 2016/03044/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; replacement of existing window with a new window at ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of new glazed rooflights above the roof of single storey back addition; alterations to the front fenestration and above the roof of first floor side extension.
49 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions Ranelagh Gardens London SW6 3UQ 2016/01752/FUL
Replacement of existing windows and front door with new double glazed windows and door at second floor level.
Cradley House 241 New King's Road London SW6 4XG 2016/03152/FUL
Removal of the white porch around the front door.
Belushi's And St Christopher's Hammersmith Broadway London W6 7AB 2016/03155/FUL
Erection of rear extensions at first, second, third and fourth floor levels to form additional hostel accommodation; erection of an internal staircase from first floor to fourth floor level to the rear elevation; alterations and relocation of windows and a door at ground floor level, relocation of existing window at first floor level to the eastern side elevation; installation of an extract duct to the roof of back addition at fourth floor level; associated internal and external alterations.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 16th August 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13 2B Coningham Mews London W12 9QW 2016/03205/FUL
I give notice that Landmark Property is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level; change of use of ground floor from retail (Class A1) into residential (Class C3); installation of new windows to replace the existing shop entrance doors at ground floor level to the front elevation; conversion of existing building into a single family dwellinghouse.
20 Waldemar Avenue London SW6 5NA 2016/02966/FUL
I give notice that Urbane Tango Five LLP is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition following the removal of existing roof terrace; conversion of the first, second and third floor level to provide 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.
65 Davisville Road London W12 9SH 2016/03066/FUL
I give notice that Mr & Mrs Benjamin & Christine Excell is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of a new window to replace the existing door to the side of the single storey back addition; conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into 2 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained flats. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 16th August 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the "Planning Online" logo on the Planning Home Page. You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk. You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(HARBOUR AVENUE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate tower crane operations to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Harbour Avenue between its junctions with Chelsea Harbour Drive and No. 214 Harbour Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Imperial Road, New Kings Road, Munster Road, Lille Road, Finborough Road and Lots Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 1st August 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 1st August 2016 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 19th day of July 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(PARKING PLACES, ZONE "J")
(AMENDMENT No. *) ORDER 20**
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(BUS LANE) (CONSOLIDATION)
(AMENDMENT No. **) ORDER 20**
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION)
(CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT (No. **)
ORDER 20**
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(LOADING BAY) AMENDMENT (No. **)
ORDER 20**
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
(PARKING PLACES)(Car Club)
(AMENDMENT No. *) ORDER 20****

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the above proposed Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zones J)(Amendment No.**) Order 20** would be to further amend The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone J) Order 2013 in so far that parking places would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Tunis Road and Stanlake Road.
3. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Bus Lane) (Consolidation) (Amendment No.**) Order 20** would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Bus Lane) (Consolidation) Order 2010 so as to :-
a) revoke sections of bus only route which lie on Uxbridge Rd.
b) reduce sections of bus only route which lies on Uxbridge Rd.
4. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No.**) Order 20** would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2009 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Pennard Road, Hopgood Street, Lime Grove, Stanlake Road, Titmuss Street, Tunis Road, Uxbridge Road and Shepherd's Bush Green.
5. The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Loading Bay) (Consolidation) (Amendment No.**) Traffic Order 20** would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Loading Bay) (Consolidation) Traffic Order 2011 so as to introduce and/or revoked loading bays on Hopgood Street, Pennard Road, Uxbridge Road, Frithville Gardens, Lime Grove, Tunis Road and Stanlake Road.
6. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places) (Car Club) (Amendment No.**) Order 20** would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places) (Car Club) Order 2013 so as to introduce a new car club bay on Pennard Road.
7. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.
8. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address:
Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 21st day of July 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application to VARY a Premises Licence

Name of applicant: Co-operative Group Food Ltd
Address of Premises: 227-233 Munster Road, London, SW6 6BT
The premises currently has the benefit of a Premises Licence number 2015/00256/LAPR. The purpose of this application is to vary the hours when licensable activities may take place from Monday-Saturday 08:00-23:00 and Sundays 10:00-22:30, to Monday-Sunday 07:00-23:00, and to vary the current store layout following a re-fit. The licensable activity is the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises. In all other respects the licence will remain unchanged.

Anyone wishing to make a representation to this application may do so by 11th August 2016.

A record of the application made to the Licensing Authority will be kept on a register at the address given below and the register may be inspected during normal office hours but by appointment only. All representations regarding this application **MUST BE IN WRITING** and sent to:
Hammersmith & Fulham Council
Licensing Team
PO Box 66532
London W8 9GJ
Or www.lbhf.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and is subject to a maximum fine of £5,000 on summary conviction for the offence.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES
LICENCE UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE
LICENSING ACT 2003**

Notice is hereby given that Viet Food Limited has applied to the City of Westminster for a premises licence for Viet Food at ground, first and second floor, 34 to 36 Wardour Street London W1D 6QT.

The proposed application is to permit the provision of the following licensable activities: late night refreshment Monday to Saturday 23:00 to 00:30, Sunday 23:00 to 00:00; on-supplies of alcohol Monday to Saturday 10:00 to 00:00, Sunday 12:00 to 23:30. Full details of the application can be inspected at the address noted below during normal business hours.

Representations by any person or a responsible authority regarding this application can be made in writing to:
Licensing Service 14th Floor City Hall 64 Victoria Street London SW1E 6QP.

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online at www.westminster.gov.uk/Licensing and following the link to the public register.

Such written representation must be received by 11th August 2016 clearly stating the grounds upon which the representation is made in relation to the four objectives of the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

**JAMES ALEXANDER LAW
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 174 King's Court, Hamlet Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W6 0RP, who died on 20/01/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 04/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Owen White & Catlin LLP, 181 Chiswick High Road, London W4 2DR. Ref: ET MC LAW 802973.1

**LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
VARIATION OF PREMISES
LICENCE**

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT **Harvey Nichols and Company Limited** has applied to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on 20th July 2016 to vary the premises licence at **Harvey Nichols, 109-125 Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7RJ** so as to 1. Vary the licence plans in respect of the Ground Floor, the changes follow improvement and refurbishment works to the shopping areas and nail salon 2. Vary the terminal hour for the sale of alcohol in the nail salon from 21:00 to 22:00 and 3. Vary the permitted hours for the sale of alcohol to 08:00 until 22:00 every day on Ground Floor; First Floor; Second Floor; Third Floor; Fourth Floor and Fifth Floor Wine Shop & Food Market. 4. Vary conditions 25 and 26 and remove conditions 9 and 27 consistent with the proposals 1 - 3 above, all as more particularly set out in the application. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing Authority, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW** to be received by no later than 17th August 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.rbkc.gov.uk or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.
Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP, 38a Monmouth Street, London WC2N 9EP www.tandtp.com

**UNA PHILLIPA BRISACHER
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 33 Eyston Place, London, SW5 3JY, who died on 23/04/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 04/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Ward Hadaway, Sandgate House, 102 Quayside, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3DX. Ref: (PCJ)GPR.SXR.BRI192.1

Licensing Act 2003

Major Variation of Premises Licence

An application has been made to the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea by ATFC Ltd to vary the Premises Licence for premises situated at and to be known as Muriel's Kitchen, 1/3 Pelham Street, London SW7 2ND

The application includes a proposal to permit the supply of alcohol without food for consumption on the premises until 20.00 on any day by waiter/waitress service to seated customers for no more than 20 persons.

The full application setting out full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the licensing authority at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW during normal office hours (ring in advance to check). Further information may be available at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Interested parties can make representations to the Licensing Authority by close of business on 16th August 2016. Representations must be made in writing.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.
BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

LUISE RAINER KNITTEL

Maiden name: Rainer
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Apartment G, 54 Eaton Square, London, United Kingdom SW1W 9BE, who died on 30/12/2014, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 27/09/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Gibson Appleby,
The London Gazette (2087),
PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD.
Ref: PJW1945

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TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON

- Transport for London Town Clerk's Department
 - Streets Traffic Order Team Corporation of London
 - (RSM/PI/STOT) Guildhall
 - Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road London EC2P 2EJ
 - London, SE1 8NJ
7. The documents referred to in paragraph 6 will be available for inspection during the period within which objection can be made in accordance with paragraph 5 above.
8. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 26th day of July 2016

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager,

Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London

Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (HAMMERSMITH ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate filming for television to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the eastbound lane of Hammersmith Road between its junctions with Hammersmith Broadway and Uxbridge Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Hammersmith Broadway, Talgarth Road and Shortlands.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 8th August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works are expected to commence on Monday 8th August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 19th day of July 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (BISHOPS AVENUE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the operation of the 'CAUGHT BY THE REIVER' festival taking place in Fulham Palace it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the southern section of Bishop's Avenue.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday 2nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 2nd August 2016 and last for 8 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 19th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER BEST FOR NEWS, SPORT, JOBS, CARS & HOMES

Transport for London Notice

THE A3214 GLA ROAD (BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD) (CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2016

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable gully and kerb-line works to take place on A3214 GLA Road Buckingham Palace Road.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering, exiting, stopping or proceeding on A3214 Buckingham Palace Road between its junctions with A302 Victoria Street and A3217 Bressenden Place. The Order will be effective at certain times from 10.00 PM on the 31st July 2016 until 6.00 PM on the 4th September 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
 - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
 - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via: **(for the closure of Buckingham Palace Road)** Bressenden Place, Victoria Street, Buckingham Palace Road to normal route; **(for the closure with Eaton Lane)** Beeston Place, Grosvenor Gardens, Lower Grosvenor Place, Bressenden Place, Victoria Street, Buckingham Palace Road to normal route; **(for the closure with Victoria Square)** Lower Grosvenor Place, Bressenden Place, Victoria Street, Buckingham Palace Road to normal route.

Dated this 26th day of July 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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Public Notices

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 (AS AMENDED)

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

NOTICE OF MAKING OF ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION RELATING TO:

154 Cromwell Road, SW7 4EF
111 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9RL
28 Golborne Road, W10 5PF
52 Golborne Road, W10 5PR
341 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6DW
395 King's Road, SW10 0LR
76 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN

NOTICE IS GIVEN by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, being the appropriate Local Planning Authority, that it has made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO).

The Direction was made on 22nd July 2016 and applies to:

154 Cromwell Road, SW7 4EF
111 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9RL
28 Golborne Road, W10 5PF
52 Golborne Road, W10 5PR
341 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6DW
395 King's Road, SW10 0LR
76 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN

The Direction applies to the development described in the following Class of the GPDO:-

Schedule 2, Part 3, Class M, in so far as it relates to development consisting of

- (a) a change of use of a building from a use as a launderette to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and
- (b) building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building referred to in paragraph (a) to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the said Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987

not being development comprised within any other class.

The effect of the Direction is that the permission granted by Article 3 of the GPDO shall not apply to such development and such development shall not be carried out within these addresses unless planning permission is granted by the Council.

A copy of the Direction and the relevant site plans may be seen at the offices of the Council within the Customer Service Centre, the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX during normal office hours or can be viewed in the on the Council's website at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Representations may be made concerning the aforementioned Article 4 Direction between 22nd July and 2nd September 2016. If you would like to make representations, the Council would prefer to receive your representations by email at planningpolicy@rbkc.gov.uk. You may also send representations by post. Please address these to the Executive Director, Planning and Borough Development, Policy Team, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX. Whether using email or post please put the following reference on your representation - "**Representation for the Non-immediate Article 4 - Launderettes.**" Please specify which property your representation relates to. Any representation must be received by the Council by 5 pm on 2nd September 2016 and should include your name, postal address and, if desired, an e-mail address.

It is proposed that the Direction will come into force on 24th July 2017, subject to the consideration of any representations received during the consultation period and the Direction being confirmed by the Council.

Dated: 22 July 2016
Signed

Director of Law and duly authorised officer of the Council

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Rangers fire friendly blanks

FRIENDLIES are rarely a barometer of what to expect when the real action gets underway and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink will hope that little can be read into Friday's dour goalless draw at Wycombe Wanderers, who operate two divisions below his team.

"It was a useful exercise for us," said the Queens Park Rangers manager. "I was happy with the first half. We played some neat football, kept the ball well at times and created a few chances. We looked dangerous but needed to be a bit more clinical."

"In the second half we were a bit sloppy. We had to change the formation a little bit. "It was a warm night and we tired a little but we still came up with the big chance of the match, when Conor (Washington) just failed to head home at the end."

With just 15 days to go until R's Championship season gets underway against Leeds United in W12, Hasselbaink again opted to shuffle his pack at Adams Park, utilising his squad following the previous Tuesday's 1-1 draw at Northampton Town.

"We needed to give certain players 90 minutes again tonight," he said. "We play a lot of games in the first month or so of the season, so it's important that everyone is at the same level fitness-wise."



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

"We're getting fitter, we're getting closer – and we need to keep on going."

New signing Jordan Cousins went off on the hour mark with a groin injury but Hasselbaink said there was no cause for concern.

"We took Jordan off purely as a precaution."

He had a little niggle in his groin but it's not serious."

LWN went to press before Tuesday's friendly at Burton Albion. Hoops continue their pre-season preparations with a home game against Watford on Saturday (3.00pm).

Football's true brave heroes



■ AT Longueval in northern France stands The Football League's memorial to the Footballers' Battalions who signed up for the WW1 effort

■ **HERO** is a word all too glibly banded around in sport today but no-one would argue against it being used to describe those brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for king and country on the battlefields of the Somme 100 years ago.

Last weekend I was fortunate to visit a number of these historic Great War sites, as part of a regular pilgrimage to the killing fields of northern France made by some 200-plus members – four coachloads – of the Leyton Orient Supporters' Club.

On Sunday, 100 years to the day since the Footballers' Battalion arrived on the Somme, many to be killed within hours, we gathered in the village of Longueval to remember the many thousands who lost their lives or who were badly wounded in the ferocious fighting that lasted for 142 days across this region.

It's here where the Football League memorial, in honour of the Football Battalions of the 17th and 23rd Middlesex Regiments, can be found.

A short distance away, in a small church yard at Flers, stands the even more impressive granite monument to mark the heroism of the three Orient players who lost their lives in nearby battles – Richard McFadden, William Jonas and George Scott. The shrine to the Clapton Orient trio – as the club was then known – was erected in 2011 at a cost £15,000, paid for solely by donations from supporters.

The east London club was the first in England to sign up for WW1 duty en masse when the Football Battalion was formed by the 17th Battalion of the

Middlesex Regiment was formed at Fulham Town Hall on December 15, 1914.

In all, 41 players, staff and fans of Orient signed up, along with those from other clubs. The fact that three never came home is the catalyst for the passion LOSC vice-chairman Steve Jenkins has shown in honouring and remembering O's fallen heroes for the past decade.

What Steve and I would like to know is why supporters of other clubs have not followed his lead in organising regular tours to the region to pay their respects? Why is 'little Leyton Orient' of the fourth tier the only professional English club to go to such trouble?

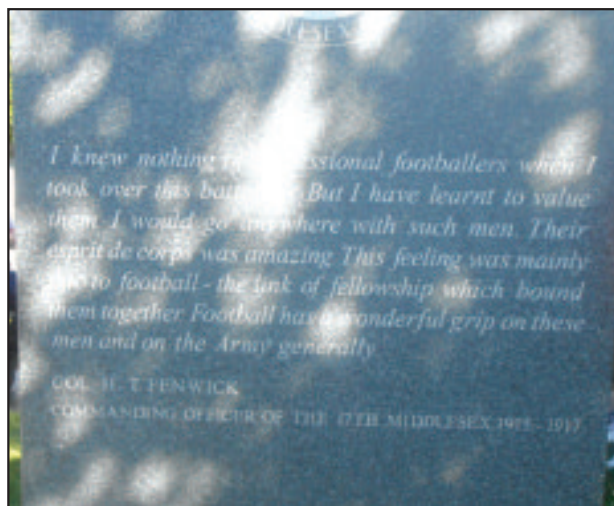
The Chelsea trio of William Krug, David Girdwood and Edward Foord were among the first to enlist at that historic meeting – while Fulham and QPR players also saw battle on the Somme.

All three pro clubs in the LWN area of the capital had players killed there. Chelsea lost George Lake; Fulham lost William Maughan and Edward Thompson, the latter killed just one week before Armistice in November 1918; and QPR also lost two in Ben Butler and Henry Penfiter.

Mercifully, these three clubs had players who survived the horrors.

But by the time the war ended, more than 1,500 men who had served with the Footballers' Battalions at some stage of the Great War had lost their lives.

"It's down to supporters' groups to go out of the way to research their club's history and then take steps to honour those who were killed in battle, as we have done at the Orient," says Jenkins, who has written a book on the subject.



■ THE inscription at the base of The Football League memorial at Longueval

Skolars taught a lesson

● RUGBY LEAGUE

■ **HAMMERSMITH Hills Hoists** put in another dominant display against London Skolars to record a whopping 80-0 victory.

Hoists began in the knowledge that only a high scoring win would keep them in touching distance of Premiership rivals Wests Warriors, who are currently top of the league on points difference.

But Hoists were guilty of over-playing and trying to score off every play. This led to a few silly errors and a number of drops in crucial areas, so points in the first 15 minutes were hard to come by.

After a break in play at the scrum, the green and golds decided to stick to their game-plan and dominate with aggressive carries from the forwards. Hoists started to pile on the points and found tries increasingly easy to come by as the opposition tired and couldn't match up physically.

Man of the Match went to Jordy Ford, whose aggression in both attack and defence set the platform for the rest of the forward pack to dominate.

The club's next game is at home against Medway Dragons.



■ SURREY big-hitters Jason Roy (left) and Aaron Finch enjoying Sunday's convincing One-Day Cup win at Essex Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Surrey ease drop fears

● COUNTY CRICKET ROUND-UP

■ **SURREY eased their County Championship relegation fears with an emphatic victory over bottom side Hampshire by an innings and 13 runs in what may prove a crucial first division duel at Southampton.**

Skipper Gareth Batty and Ben Foakes broke Surrey's record eighth-wicket stand as they piled up 637-7 at the Ageas Bowl.

Maiden century

Batty made an unbeaten 110 – his maiden century for the county – and wicketkeeper Foakes scored 141 not out – his first ton this season – in a partnership of 222 before the visitors declared on day two.

Rory Burns (122), Dominic Sibley (99) and Aaron Finch (86) also made hay against the top flight's whipping boys.

Man of the match award had to go to Batty, who backed up his brilliance with the bat by claiming bowling figures of 6-51 from 26 overs, including 12 maidens, as the visitors bowled out their hosts for a second time. Hants were restricted to 423 and 201 all out.

Surrey's improving CC1 form lifts them further clear of Hants, who look certain for the drop, and one place above Nottinghamshire. The bottom two sides will be relegated to CC2.

Although losing the T20 London derby to Middlesex at Lord's came as a setback (see below), Surrey recovered to beat Sussex by six wickets in the same competition at the Kia Oval the next day. Having restricted the visitors to a meagre 153-6, Sibley (40) and Roy (36) top-scored as Surrey breezed to victory with 10 balls to go.

That result leaves Surrey level on points with fourth-placed Essex, who have a game in hand on them. Surrey are due to wrap up their T20 group stage fixtures against Kent at The Oval on Friday (29th at 6.30pm) – the same night Essex play their final game at home to Glamorgan, having faced Middlesex at Lord's the previous night.

Hammered

Surrey perhaps dealt Essex a timely psychological blow on Sunday, when they hammered them by 66 runs in the One-Day Cup at Chelmsford. Steven Davies (82), Jason Roy (55), Burns (52) and Foakes (45 from just 29 balls) did most damage with the bat.

Despite Jesse Ryder's 131 for Essex, Jade Dernbach led the bowling attack with 4-41 from nine overs as Browncaps sealed victory in 41.1 overs.

Middlesex dazzle in sun

■ **THE belated arrival of summer has finally brought out the best in Middlesex.**

Still unbeaten at the top of the County Championship first division, they have also sparkled in the shorter forms of the game in recent weeks.

Consecutive T20 Blast victories over local rivals Surrey and Hampshire clinched their place in the quarter-finals.

They are scheduled to conclude their southern group fixtures this week, hosting fourth-placed Essex, who are three points behind them, at Lord's this Thursday (28th at 6.15pm), before facing Gloucestershire at Bristol the next day.

In the 50-over One-Day Cup, they moved up to fourth place – just a point behind south group leaders Essex – following last Sunday's easy six-wicket

success at the expense of Kent.

Paul Stirling, with 112 off 133 balls, and Eoin Morgan, impressing with 103 not out from 121, shone in the sunshine at the Home of Cricket, where the hosts hardly broke sweat in reaching their match-winning total of 239-4 with 31 balls to spare.

In the two T20 wins, it was George Bailey and John Simpson who turned up the heat, scoring 76 and 54 respectively to defeat Hampshire by 43 runs at Southampton, where the home side were dismissed for a paltry 138 in 19.1 overs.

Credit must also go to Ryan Higgins with outstanding bowling figures of 5-13 from 3.1 overs.

The previous day, Bailey (55) and Simpson (43) led the way at Lord's, as Middlesex chased down Surrey's 196-6, with five balls of the innings remaining.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, July 26th, 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427



■ BRANISLAV Ivanovic sees off Diego Payet of West Ham, Blues' first opponents Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Blues hit by injury blow

BRANISLAV Ivanovic's dislocated shoulder will only hasten Chelsea head coach Antonio Conte's desire to bring in a top-class defender before Blues' Premier League season starts on August 15 at home to West Ham United.

The 32-year-old Serbia defender picked up the injury during the club's second pre-season match in Austria on Wednesday – a straightforward 3-0 win against RZ Pellets.

Blues flew out to the USA on Sunday and are in 'brand-building' mode ahead of Thursday's friendly against Liverpool, the first of three Stateside matches. The other two are against Real Madrid, on Saturday, and AC Milan, on August 4.

Ivanovic won't play in any of these matches and director of football Michael Emenalo is keen to land either Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly or Greek international centre-back Kostas Manolas from Roma.

Manolas' agent Ioannis Evangelopoulos said: "The best clubs in Europe want him. There isn't just

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Manchester City but also (Man) United and Chelsea. I haven't spoken with Roma for a while. Will he remain in the Italian capital? No comment."

Conte is also desperate for the Stamford Bridge hierarchy to nab another striker.

Powerhouse replacement

Belgian hit-man Michy Batshuayi has already been recruited but Diego Costa's future at The Bridge is still a subject of heated discussion. Batshuayi is viewed as a direct replacement for Loic Remy who will be allowed to leave once Chelsea have a powerhouse replacement, should Costa return to Atletico Madrid.

To that end, Blues are trying to repair their fractious relationship with Everton and bring Romelu Lukaku back to SW6 – two years after they sold him to the Merseysiders for £28million.

Despite a poor showing in Euro 2016, the Belgium

striker's transfer fee has rocketed to £75m. Blues tried to land Lukaku in January for £65m but then Everton manager Roberto Martinez insisted no deal was brokered. However, since his dismissal, new Goodison Park boss Ronald Koeman is happy to progress the move if he can land his own replacement.

Blues fell out with Everton over their very public coveting of defender John Stones, a deal that is believed to now be dead in the water.

Chelsea are still negotiating with Real Madrid for the purchase of Alvaro Morata. No doubt direct talks will be held in the States when the two sides face each other at the weekend.

But two bids have already been rejected by the 2016 Champions League winners. Because of the recent fall in the exchange rate of sterling to the Euro, it will cost almost £70m to get the 23-year-old striker, who was on loan at Juventus last term.

If Emenalo cannot land either Lukaku or Morata, he will revert to Paris Saint-Germain's Edison Cavani.

The need for two top quality strikers is paramount because Conte will start the season with a 4-2-4



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

formation. One whom Conte thinks could play up front, which will come as a surprise to the player himself, is Rubén Loftus-Cheek.

The 18-year-old is revelling in his pre-season campaign – he scored the second goal in the 3-0 win over RZ Pettets and is loving life under Conte, a sharp contrast to last season.

He said of Conte: "He's a strong character with a lot of passion and I think he's the right man for the job. We respect him so much and trust his work, so I think it's going to be a good season."

"We've been working really hard in training and trying to get used to the formation the boss wants us to play. And we did well, so I'm really happy."

Of his goal, he said: "I don't get many with my head, so it was nice to score one. Luckily, I was really close to the goal when the corner came in."

"The boss said he thinks it will suit me to play further forward and I'm not going to argue with that. It's a new challenge, it's different, but I'm working at it."

"I had a good end to last season and so far pre-season has been going well. I'm just looking to do the best I can with the time I'm given. There is a lot of competition for places right now and there might even be more new players coming in, so I just want to give it my best and show the manager what I'm good at."

Blues thrashed Austrian side Atus Ferlach 8-0 on Thursday in a behind-closed doors friendly, giving match time to players who returned to pre-season later than others due to Euro 2016 and holidays.

Loic Remy hit a hat-trick, Pedro and Batshuayi netted a brace apiece, with Mikel (yep, you read that right!) adding a rare goal.

■ **WHILE Antonio Conte is frustrated with the lack of new signings, he is more than content that Chelsea have allowed him to bring in a massive management team of his own.**

There is nothing like keeping it in the family, as he employs his younger brother Gianluca as an analyst.

Steve Holland retains his position as first team head coach but will have company in newcomer Angelo Alessio. The team also has fitness coaches in Paolo Bertelli, Julio Tous, who doubles up as a performance analyst, and Chelsea stalwart Chris Jones. Assistant fitness coach is Costantino Coratti, while Tiberio Ancora will be a personal trainer/nutritionist.

Gianluca Spinelli is the new goalkeeper coach. This appointment signals the end of first team duties for Christophe Lollichon, who will help the players earmarked to go out on loan. He has been with Chelsea since 2007, when he was brought in to help Peter Cech. How much longer he stays at Stamford Bridge remains to be seen – not long, I suspect.

The final role goes to ex-Blues keeper Carlo Cudicini who will be assistant to the first team head coach. He will continue with his role as one of the club's 'ambassadors', whatever they are . . .



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Two more new arrivals

SLAVISA Jokanović's revolution continued with two more signings. After capturing goalkeeper David Button from west London rivals Brentford, the Serbian manager secured Kevin McDonald from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The 27-year-old midfielder McDonald, who joins Fulham on a three-year deal for an undisclosed fee, had been one of Wolves' most consistent performers during his time there, having made 120 league appearances in three seasons. He had previously emerged from the youth ranks at Dundee before spells with Burnley and Sheffield United, plus periods on loan to Scunthorpe United and Notts County.

McDonald will find a familiar face in the dressing room. He and Richard Stearman were Wolves team-mates from 2013-15 and the central defender enthused about the club's latest arrival.

He told fulhamfc.com: "I had a great few years with Macca, he's a great lad on and off the pitch. He's a fantastic passer of the ball, probably one of the best I've played with. Positionally he's very good, he can take the ball in very tight spaces and get out, and he's a good size as well."

Button, 27, has also agreed a three-year deal at Craven Cottage. After coming through the youth ranks at Tottenham Hotspur and taking in numerous loan spells – notably at Shrewsbury Town and Plymouth Argyle – Button signed permanently for Charlton Athletic in the summer of 2012, before moving across London to Brentford a year later.

He was Bees' first choice keeper and leaves Griffin Park having made 141 appearances in just three seasons.

To help balance the books, Fulham have released Fernando Amorebieta to Spanish side Real Sporting de Gijón on a permanent deal for an undisclosed fee. Amorebieta joined Fulham on a free transfer in the summer of 2013 and went on to make 48 appearances, scoring twice.

■ **A LATE penalty saw Fulham slip to a narrow 2-1 defeat by Real Betis at the Estadio Ciudad de Lepe in Huelva, Spain, on Saturday night.**

Cristiano Piccini opened the scoring in the 23rd minute with his halfway line chip, before Whites equalised through Cauley Woodrow's brilliant strike.

The La Liga outfit edged ahead with two minutes remaining, when Joaquin netted from

12 yards.

Fulham's narrow defeat in Spain came four days after their 3-0 win over Brighton & Hove Albion at Aldershot Town's EBB Stadium. Woodrow's well-executed header had given his side a slender but deserved lead at the break, before Ryan Sessegnon's bullet strike soon after the restart doubled the advantage.

Richard Stearman then netted a placed effort seven minutes after coming on to nullify any threat of a comeback by Brighton.

After facing CD Nacional in Albufeira on Monday night, just before LWN went to press, Whites return from the Algarve to prepare for their first home pre-season friendly, against Premier League Crystal Palace on Saturday (3.00pm).

Fulham's most valuable player, the £15m rated Ross McCormack, has reportedly been ruled out of recent friendlies due to injury. Whites fans who recognise that the Scot is the main reason the club preserved its Championship status last season, thanks to his 23 goals and nine assists, have everything crossed that his recent absence is not a smokescreen pending his imminent departure from The Cottage.

There is speculation linking him with Norwich.